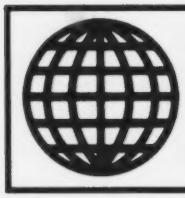

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Yeltsin Calls For Cease-Fire in Karabakh

LD0904130793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appealed to Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in connection with the new spiral of confrontation over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The press service of the Russian president reports that in his appeal today, Boris Yeltsin expressed profound concern in connection with the fierce fighting under way on the territory of Azerbaijan and the spread of combat operations beyond the boundaries of the zone of the Karabakh conflict.

The Russian president noted that these operations are leading to a sharp escalation of armed confrontation and a further worsening of the situation throughout the region, and they could bring to naught international steps for the cessation of the bloodshed. It is all the more a cause of sorrow that they were undertaken at a time when the first results had been achieved in the course of the CSCE negotiating process, thereby causing extreme complications for the peacemaking activity of everyone who is seeking to help establish peace in Karabakh.

Boris Yeltsin pointed out that attempts to gain unilateral political advantages by arm-twisting or by putting forward various pre-conditions for a constructive dialogue will not bring any feasible political or military benefits and will only impede the cause of reconciliation between the parties. All such behavior can achieve is to prolong indefinitely this war, aimed at self-destruction, into which the two neighboring peoples have found themselves dragged. Years of armed confrontation have convincingly proven yet again that resolving the issue by force has no future whatsoever. The only real way out of the present deadlock is to achieve a compromise by way of negotiations. He underlined Russia's genuine interest in the speediest end to this fratricidal war and categorically refuted allegations of Russian involvement on either side in this conflict in Transcaucasia. Boris Yeltsin resolutely condemned the new escalation of the hostilities in the area of the Karabakh conflict and appealed for a cease-fire and for respect of internal and external borders on behalf of all parties involved in the conflict.

As an immediate measure, he suggested an immediate cease-fire everywhere, so that serious negotiations on reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem could be, at last, started. The president pledged Russia's humanitarian aid to civilians who have suffered from armed actions and reiterated his readiness to take additional measures to help stop this bloodbath and begin a political settlement. He offered his services as a mediator, should this meet the understanding and support of the parties to the conflict.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments

LD0904170293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1309 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] A briefing on current international policy issues took place at the press center of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry today. Speaking there, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information Department of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, said, in particular:

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin appealed to Azerbaijan President Elchibey and Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan on 8 April with regard to a new outbreak of confrontations connected with Nagorno-Karabakh. In his appeal, Yeltsin said that he was deeply alarmed by serious fighting on the territory of several Azerbaijani districts and by the spread of military operations outside the Karabakh conflict area.

The president of the Russian Federation noted that these activities lead to sharp escalation, armed confrontation, and further worsening of the situation in the whole region. They also present the danger that international efforts to stop the bloodshed—which has already led to numerous casualties and massive financial losses suffered by the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia—will be undermined.

It makes it all the more regrettable that these actions came at a time when the first results of the CSCE negotiating process were achieved. They made the peacemaking efforts of all those who are trying to help to establish peace in Karabakh much more difficult. Yeltsin noted that no attempts to secure unilateral advantages by using force and by setting various preliminary conditions for starting a constructive dialogue will bring real political or military benefits. They will only make the task of reconciling the sides more difficult.

Yeltsin condemned decisively a new escalation of military operations in the Karabakh conflict area and insistently called for a truce and for respect for internal and external borders by all the sides involved in the conflict. He suggested an immediate cease- fire through the entire area in order to conduct serious talks on a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. The president suggested he might act as mediator if his efforts were treated with understanding and support by those involved in the conflict. [end recording]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Apr

LD1004065993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0552 GMT 10 Apr 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 10 (TASS)—Today's Moscow-based press highlights the forthcoming April 25 referendum in the Russian Federation.

"The destiny of Russia will be actually decided upon during the referendum," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED

STAR) quotes President Boris Yeltsin as saying at Friday's meeting with the chief editors of a number of leading news media.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA frontpages a report that voting during the April referendum will be both servicemen who are on the territory of Russia and about 260,000 servicemen—citizens of the Russian Federation from the neighbouring countries, Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, deputy minister of defence, told a conference of the ministry's managerial personnel here.

The newspaper also gives prominence to information that the leaders of a number of public organisations of Sevastopol addressed Russian Parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov in an open letter, requesting him to consider the question of permitting the citizens of this Crimean city to take part in the April 25 referendum. They refer to the Russian parliament resolution of May 21, 1992, under which the act of the transfer of the Crimean region from the Russian Federation to Ukraine was recognised as invalid and running counter to the constitution.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes that it has received almost 4,500 telegrammes, postcards and letters over the nine days that have passed since a suggestion to introduce a "referendum rehearsal" rubric was made. The newspaper maintains it follows from the contents of the messages that most readers express distrust of the Russian president and oppose an early election of the people's deputies of the Russian Federation.

Newspapers give prominence to articles about the upcoming cosmonautics day on April 12. They recall that 32 year ago, for the first time in mankind's history, Yuriy Gagarin, a citizen of Russia, made a triumphant flight on board the Vostok spaceship.

Newspapers run an address by General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russian Ministry of Defence, to the servicemen, civilian personnel, and space veterans, greeting and congratulating them on the memorable date. Newspapers also carry the minister's order about the celebration of the day of air defence forces on April 11.

This occasion is the subject of an interview in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA with Colonel General Viktor Sinitsyn, chief of the main headquarters of Russia's Air Defence Forces. The general emphasises that in the present-day complex situation "to keep the single air defence system is of importance for the security of the state as never before, for its division would result in a decline in the combat capability of troops," which was repeatedly pointed out by experts and scientists.

"The idea of a coalition government is ill-timed," Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, said in an interview published in the government newspaper ROSSIISKIYE VESTI. There was a chance to set up a coalition before the 7th Congress of People's Deputies but time was lost.

Travkin is convinced that it is impossible to form a government on this principle now because "professionals are needed for the administration of the country".

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI carries an article by Yuliya Polyakova who, in an excursion into history, writes that "parliamentarism in Russia did not and could not strike root, for from the very inception it existed in parallel with the representative organisation of another epoch. The groups-dominated councils, which denied the principle of the separation of powers, and a constituent assembly, which presupposes a law-governed state and representative democracy, could not but enter into conflict".

TRUD returns to the subject of the Chernobyl accident, carrying a column of excerpts from witness testimony by former Communist Party and Soviet Government leaders—Yegor Ligachev, Nikolay Ryzhkov and Vladimir Dolgikh. The newspaper is convinced that "the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee considered the question of how to conceal the truth about the Chernobyl accident from their own people and from the world public".

MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA runs an exclusive interview with former Soviet parliament chief Anatoliy Lukyanov, who, among others, is faced with a trial in connection with the coup plotters' case. Explaining his refusal to give testimony during the investigation, Lukyanov said in particular that the reason for such a conduct is that he was "arrested unlawfully" and that the prosecutor's office referred to him as a "criminal" without any grounds for that. At the same time Lukyanov stated his intention "to tell the people" about his attitude towards the events of August 1991.

Yeltsin Briefs Diplomats on Situation

LD0904165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1524 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today spoke to the diplomatic corps in the Kremlin, saying: Esteemed Dean! Esteemed ladies and gentlemen! I cordially welcome Moscow's diplomatic corps, which has gathered in this historic hall. I have always believed, and am convinced that I am not mistaken, that today the flower of world diplomacy works in Russia, diplomacy's professional and intellectual elite; it probably could not be otherwise. The significance of our country in the world is too great, too much is at stake today in the country itself. Without any exaggeration I will say that Russia is faced by a decisive choice, which the whole of mankind is watching. Moscow has become one of the main centers where the fate of the world and the fate of the 21st century are being decided. The acuteness of the moment is determined by the fact that the profound reforms that have begun in this huge country touch the whole world in one way or another. It would be naive to think that it will be otherwise.

A most intense political struggle is going on in Russia. It is not so much a case of a conflict of leaders or different branches of power, as a struggle of development strategies for Russia. Such a conflict cannot be resolved on the Olympus of power. The citizens of Russia must utter their weighty word. In any democratic country it is they who are the supreme source of power. The referendum is a real alternative to growing political confrontation, a real means of stopping the country sliding toward chaos. The question is extremely critical and stark: Can the country free itself from the shackles of its totalitarian past and activate its potential for freedom and personal initiative, or will it allow itself to return to the old times? The appearance of the world economy in the near and more distant future depends, to a great extent, on what line gains the upper hand here in our country, and whether it is tinged, as before, with a martial khaki hue, or whether it finally finds its long-awaited peaceful prosperity. The political appearance of the world community also will depend on what choice Russia makes at this decisive moment. After all, the segregation and mutual alienation that have been overcome with such difficulty in recent years can become its determinant features once again.

Whether the world becomes more kind and humane, or whether alarm and fear continue to live on in people's hearts will depend to a great extent on what choice Russia makes. After all, the Gulag was not an exclusively Russian phenomenon; its shadow hung over the whole globe.

I calculate that common sense will not let Russia's inhabitants down, and with their backing the course of reforms and democracy will be continued. There is simply no alternative for us now.

The diplomats working in our country can remember December 1991. The situation was such that we were forced to begin economic transformations and political reform under conditions in which the state's political institutions were at the embryonic stage.

The first step of the independent Russian state and the first step of economic reform were taken almost simultaneously. At the present time, too, the strengthening of the Russian state on a democratic and lawful footing remains a key task for us.

The most important thing Russia needs now is stability. The historical memory of Russians preserves the monstrous pictures of the chaos of civil war that rolled through the state's boundless spaces 70 years ago. I firmly believe that my fellow-countrymen will not permit the repetition of such a global tragedy. The simple sense of self-preservation makes us worry about the integrity of Russia. It cannot be permitted for a conglomerate of weak states to arise in the place of a single country. The energy of collapse will destroy everything in its path. It not only will bury the Russian reforms, but also will destabilize the situation throughout the world for a long time to come. It is almost unbelievable that in this situation the nuclear factor will not come into force. The country's integrity does not mean a return to unitarianism, however; Russia will raise itself only by raising up the oblasts, regions, and republics. This is why I am in favor of a new federalism, for the maximum development of initiative and the utilization of legal rights in the provinces.

Russia's stability cannot be achieved without settling the constitutional crisis, which is constantly being nourished by the imperfections of the old, long obsolete Constitution of so-called "advanced socialism." Moreover, that Constitution is being endlessly distorted, refashioned, and forced into the mold of the political interests of the moment. As you know, I recently was compelled to tackle the issue of the condition of constitutionality in our country directly.

Stability in our country is the safety of the individual in his everyday life. There is no need to explain to you, who live in Moscow, how threatening the prevalence of crime has become. Much tough and uncomprising effort is needed if this social evil is to be curbed within the framework of the law.

These are all necessary conditions of the continuance of the radical economic reforms that in spite of everything, are continuing in Russia. Without them, there is no hope of escaping one of the most tragic and vicious traditions of our history: the crushing of the dignity of the individual by the state.

We will solve our problems ourselves; no one, of course, will solve them for us, but I think—you well understand—that the changes in Russia will bring tangible results to people more quickly if the developed world gives us assistance. It is a matter of long-term partnership and cooperation in the creation of a healthy economy and firm democratic foundations in Russia. We see that the whole world is interested in this, as well.

I had a meeting with U.S. President Clinton in Vancouver recently. For the first time in the history of our countries the talks were devoted, in the main, to economic problems. The U.S. side set itself the task of immediately switching from general assurances to practical steps and concrete cooperation. I hope the "Clinton package," as I call it, will help Russia enter the high technology and service markets and will increase investments in the Russian economy. The package envisages real measures to support Russian small- and medium-sized business. Moreover, this is without the mediation of bureaucrats. A large part of the resources will go directly to specific firms, entrepeneurs, and territories. This is the start of joint work, and not only in developing the Russian economy. It is a matter of developing the world economy and Russia's role in this process.

It would be an illusion to think that the aid being rendered to Russia could be used as a lever to exert pressure on it and to subordinate it to anyone's interests. I am convinced that there is not a single serious politician abroad who believes this.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

On the threshold of the 21st century all of us, and all of the world, must show a profound vision of the future. That is not an exaggeration. The dust of many years of "cold war" is settling, but the ending of global confrontation does not mean that everything now will run smoothly and there will be universal prosperity.

We must acknowledge honestly that the world found itself unprepared to use the new chances for progress, unprepared for the new dangers, and unprepared for the appearance of violent outbreaks, above all on interethnic bases. The whole of the world community must make determined efforts to find mechanisms for removing the tension.

Humankind is progressing toward a partnership based on mutual interest. We are united by a need to oppose the same dangers: aggressive nationalism, armed conflicts, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is on this partnership that the future world is beginning to be built. At the same time, every state has its own interests, which it insistently tries to promote. Contradictions in this aspect are inevitable. The recent years have confirmed time and again that only a civilized and peaceful manner of resolving them can produce real results. Russia occupies a place in the world community of which it is worthy, and we, like others, are not going to waive our interests. There are, however, different ways these interests can be protected.

In the times of "cold war" the world market was stable, in its own way, but Russia, East Europe, and China—with their enormous economic potential—were practically left out of it. Now this situation is changing drastically. With the collapse of the "Iron Curtain" they are trying increasingly hard to become part of international division of labor. I believe the whole of the modern world has only one option—to reach a high level of integration by understanding our needs and interests, and through reasonable compromises. I am convinced that any other option will be a loss to us all; it will bring only complications.

I would like to speak of one further thing: The development of relations with "close foreign" countries [strany "blizhnego zarubezhya" is of particular importance for us. We have common goals in the reforming of society and this is a firm basis for partnership.

Russia has emphatically abandoned its "elder brother" syndrome and any imperial ambitions whatsoever. Our main aim in the CIS, first and foremost, is to ensure a zone of good-neighborliness, stability, and security—security for us and for our partners. This is precisely the aim of our latest proposals for strengthening the CIS.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Russia will continue to be aware of its special responsibility for upholding international peace and security.

I want to assure you that democratic Russia's policies will continue to be honest, open, and free of any double standards.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

In welcoming you here at the Kremlin I would like to assure you again that Russia is open for cooperation with the states of the West, East, North, and South. The closer the ties that unite us, the more lasting the peace and the greater the opportunities for each of us. Let me express my firm confidence that you will make every effort to strengthen relations between your states and Russia on a mutually beneficial basis.

May I wish the peoples of your countries peace and prosperity, and wish you personally success in your work, health, and happiness! May your stay in Moscow be pleasant and fruitful!

U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD0904193093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1706 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 9 TASS—A delegation of the U.S. Congress headed by Richard Gephardt, the majority leader in the House of Representatives and George Mitchell [name as received], the minority leader arrived in St. Petersburg in the two groups—one from Moscow and the other from Nizhny Novgorod—on Friday.

The delegation completes its tour of Russia and Ukraine in the city on the Neva River, which was undertaken with the aim to demonstrate the support of the democratic transformations process in these countries.

The notion received by the congressmen during the tour of the rate of the Russian economic reform were supplemented with the familiarization with a major city enterprise, the "Kirovsky Zavod" amalgamation.

The plant manufactured tanks, while now, with the process of conversion they are phased out of production. The turbine production for the nuclear submarine fleet needs was also stopped. The chief production of the amalgamation now are powerful wheeled and mini-tractors, excavators, trainers, various insturments. The visitors also saw the main conveyor and the metallurgical production.

The U.S. congressmen visited the Bolshevichka clothing association and were shown a collection of women's and men's clothes.

Meets Mayor Sobchak

OW1004135393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatoliy Sobchak, Mayor of St. Petersburg, on Saturday [10 April] met a U.S. Congress delegation, headed by Richard Gephardt, leader of the House of Representatives majority, and Bob Mitchell [name as received], the minority leader.

Following the meeting, Sobchak told reporters that it had centered around a cooperation program worked out by U.S. President Bill Clinton and his administration. Sobchak said such cooperation would be particularly fruitful if it were conducted at the level of enterprises, regions, and cities. Since it was the ultimate purpose of the program to provide support for democracy and economic reforms in Russia, the United States would prefer to give the aid to those regions where it could be particularly effective, the mayor said.

"It would be senseless to give money to those regions which seek to undermine the unity of Russia, to take it apart, regions where power is held by former secretaries of Communist Party committees, people who would do all they could to prevent these projects from being carried out," he said. In his opinion, such cities as Nizhni Novgorod, Yekaterinburg, Rostov, Voronezh, Novosibirsk, and Vladivostok are the most promising ones in this respect.

Sobchak said a few regions should be selected as the main recipients of the aid, since the sum was not sufficient for the whole of Russia. He suggested that ten regions be chosen, and that a Russian-U.S. bank be set up having branches in each region. The branches would investigate projects, check the potential of all partners wishing to undertake them, and provide them funds after that.

"We would like St. Petersburg to be one of the ten recipients, and its share in the sum Clinton's program provides for precisely determined," the mayor said.

Delegation Departs

LD1004195093 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Anatoliy Sobchak, the mayor of St. Petersburg, received a delegation of U.S. congressmen on Saturday [10 April]. The Americans have been on a fact-finding visit to Russia and Ukraine. The press was not invited to the meeting, at the request of the guests.

Commenting on the meeting, Anatoliy Sobchak said they had looked for a reliable mechanism for developing contacts, and had talked about the new program of cooperation between the United States and Russia that has been drawn up by President Clinton and his administration.

The congressmen visited the Hermitage, and left for home on Saturday afternoon.

Churkin, U.S. Officials Discuss Bosnia in Washington

LD1104134693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Washington, 11 Apr—Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian Federation at the peace talks on Yugoslavia, held consultations here on Saturday [10 April] with Reginald Bartholomew, special envoy of the U.S. President on the settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Peter Tarnoff and Steven Oxman, under secretaries of state, and Strobe Talbott, special adviser to the Secretary of State.

There was a useful exchange of opinions on the prospects for settling the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A meeting between Churkin and Cyrus Vance, cochairman of the coordination committee on the former Yugoslavia, will take place in New York on Sunday. On the same day the Russian special representative of the president of the Russian Federation will return to Belgrade.

Kozyrev Sees No Alternative to Vance-Owen Plan

LD1004160493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1327 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr—The provisions of the UN Security Council resolution on the the no-fly zone over Bosnia came into effect next Monday [12 April], and on the agenda of the upcoming session of the Council is a resolution submitted by France and 9 more co-authors on stepping up sanctions with regard to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. What will Russia's position be in this situation?

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, replying to a question of an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Islamabad on Thursday, described it as "absolutely clear." In his view there is no alternative to date to the Vance-Owen plan. The minister believes that there is no "100 percent negation" of this plan, "on the contrary, there is a certain acknowledgement" and that is why it is necessary to "do some work" with the Bosnian Serbs, in order to get them to accept the proposed conditions for a settlement. "The negotiating process must be continued," he stressed.

Essentially this process is going ahead—the Bosnian Serbs have sent a letter to Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the co-chairmen of the Coordination Committee of the peace conference for the settlement in the former Yugoslavia, in which they have stated their willingness to resume talks.

Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Russia, is meeting with representatives of both the U.S. Administration, as well as of all the sides in the conflict. In the current conditions, the source at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the ITAR-TASS correspondent, when the negotiation process is going ahead, the resolution on making the existing regime with regard to the former Yugoslavia more stringent "will not work" and examination of it in the situation that has taken shape seems "inopportune." In this respect, it would be extremely expedient to postpone discussion of it.

As far as the effect of the decision on the establishment of a no-fly zone on the situation in Bosnia is concerned, in the opinion of the source, "here one should not expect any kind of dramatic development of events, any kind of provocations." In the present situation, he stressed, it is necessary to concentrate on quests for new incentives to approve the Vance-Owen plan, which corresponds to the interests and needs of all sides.

Moscow Wants UN To Delay Yugoslav Sanctions Vote

OW1204131993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia believes that currently it would be counterproductive for the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution to toughen sanctions with respect to Yugoslavia. "This resolution can 'blow up' everything which has already been achieved. Finally, it can open the way to forcible methods for solving the Bosnian problem though nobody already doubts that these methods have no prospects," a senior Russian diplomat declared in his interview with Interfax.

Russia is conducting consultations in the Security Council with the hope to postpone adoption of a resolution to toughen the sanctions. "Certain positive moves have appeared in the position of the Bosnian Serbs over the last period of time. Time is needed to implement them in concrete deeds. We have an opportunity to avoid extremities and we should not ignore it," the diplomat said.

He made it clear that Russia has already received support of one of the U.N. Security Council's permanent members to delay the voting (China declared beforehand that it would abstain from voting). "We hope that we shall find understanding among our partners in the Security Council," he said.

Ministry Urges Adherence to UN Resolutions on Yugoslavia

OW0904143193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, Dimitriy Voskoboynikov, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry proceeds from the assumption that the declaration on the use of UN sanctions against former Yugoslavia, adopted in Luxembourg recently by the Council of Ministers of the West European Union, will be implemented in full accordance with Resolution No. 787 issued by the UN Security Council. The Director of the ministry's Press and Information Department, Sergey Yastrzembskiy, announced this on Friday [9 April].

Any actions by the Union, which finds it necessary to despatch river patrol boats to the Danube to monitor compliance with the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, should be coordinated with the UN Committee for Sanctions.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the West European Union can carry out only those measures that are aimed at observing Resolution No. 713 (embargo on arms supplies) and Resolution No. 757 (sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro) issued by the UN Security Council.

As Yastrzembskiy pointed out, the Union's operation "must not hinder" the use of the Danube for normal transit cargo transportations, including Russian. "We reserve the right to revise our attitude to the initiative of the West European Union, depending on the further development of events in former Yugoslavia," he said.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on CIS Troop Withdrawals

OW0904142993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Proceeding from the assumption that the presence of its military contingents in the former Soviet republics is temporary, Russia believes that their final withdrawal cannot be carried out without satisfactory solution to the problems connected with their accomodation in the places of their new deployment, and with the need to create normal living conditions for the servicemen and members of their families," said Russia's Foreign Ministry in a statement published on Friday [9 April].

Moscow is in favor of resolving political, military-technical, social and economic problems, "such as defining the status of Russian troops, conditions for their temporary presence and the time of withdrawal", only by civilized methods, on the basis of agreements. According to the statement, Russia is being guided by precisely this principle while withdrawing troops from the Baltic countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, and while seeking to reach agreements on their status with the countries, where its troops will stay for a period of time mutually agreed upon.

"In some cases, when there are the necessary agreements, Russian servicemen can take part in peace-keeping operations, such as the disengagement of the conflicting sides, the maintenance of law and order, the protection of vital economic facilities and the granting of humanitarian aid to the population," the document says. This answers to "the interests of ensuring peace, security and stability in a vast area".

"At the same time this lays on Russia a heavy burden of political and moral responsibility, and incurs great material expenditure at a time when Russia itself experiences very serious economic difficulties," the statement points out. Therefore Moscow has the right to expect that the other countries involved in the CIS, the UN and the CSCE will support its peace-keeping efforts.

Further Reportage on Talks With Georgia in Sochi

8 Apr Meeting 'More Constructive'

LD0804162993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1413 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Government delegations from Georgia and the Russian Federation continued their work in Sochi today. Compared to yesterday, today's work was more constructive.

In the morning three sections started work, including experts and other specialists from both sides.

The work of the first section, which deals with consideration of military issues and the conflict in Abkhazia, is being held behind closed doors. A package of documents is being prepared for signing.

The results of the work of the two remaining sections, which are considering commercial, economic, and political issues, in particular preparation for a meeting between B. Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, depend entirely on the solution to the military matters.

[Russian Defense Minister] P. Grachev, leader of the Russian delegation, declared that the third working group, dealing with commercial, economic, and financial matters, had reached an agreement on a range of issues, but not one single agreement has any meaning until political and military questions are settled between Georgia and Russia.

An agreement has also been reached on the withdrawal of Russian paratroopers from the territory of the military laboratory in Lower Eshera.

At this moment, Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev and Georgian Prime Minister T. Sigua are holding a meeting at which the military and political issues between Georgia and the Russian Federation will be definitively solved.

Also today, delegations from Azerbaijan and Armenia will arrive in Sochi to start talks with the Russian delegation on the question of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Agreement on Unit's Withdrawal

OW0804165393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Prime Minister Tenghiz Sigua said in an interview for the Georgian Radio that during the Russian-Georgian talks in Sochi late Wednesday [7 April] night the parties reached an agreement in principle on the withdrawal of a Russian airborne unit posted on the territory of Russia's military seismic laboratory in the village of Nizhniaya Eshera near Sukhumi, Abkhazian capital.

In Sigua's words, the Russian side has complied with the Georgian request to assign Georgian-Russian detachments to control the situation on the border between the two countries along the river Psou. The Russian delegation will also permit the presence of Georgian and international observers at the premises of the Russian military airfield in the vicinity of Gudauta.

Head of the Russian delegation at the talks with Georgia Defense Minister Pavel Grachev maintains that the talks have failed to resolve the military-political problem which he regards as "the principal issue on the agenda" in Sochi. In an interview to journalists on Thursday, he said that by the night of April 8 the expert groups of the two delegations are supposed to work out a general draft resolution in regards to the Abkhazian problem. At present, he said, the parties have produced two different drafts. The Russian draft has the title "On Cease Fire and Transitional Cooling Down Period," the Georgian draft having the title "On Cease Fire in the Zone of Abkhazian Conflict and Commencement of Transitional

Period for Achieving Peaceful Settlement of the Confrontation." "The Georgian draft," Pavel Grachev said, "is unacceptable for Russia since it puts all the responsibility on Russia, with the Georgian side not committing itself to anything and the third party—Abkhazia—being ultimately neglected."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Earlier, the Russian defense minister told journalists that both sides ought to agree to immediately cease fire to best stabilize the situation in Abkhazia. He also said the opposing sides must be disengaged and pulled back three kilometers apart. Commenting on the status of the Russian troops in Georgia, Grachev said that the parties agreed not to address this issue until 1995. Meantime, the Russian troops will still be stationed in Georgia, including the Abkhazian territory.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, who was a member of the Russian delegation at the talks with Georgia, reasons that Russia's role as "a mediator in settling the conflict in Abkhazia should not be diminished." In his opinion, "it would be naive to hope that the conflict could be settled without the participation of one of the parties (i.e., Abkhazia - IF). Pastukhov deems it expedient to proceed from settling the situation in general between Russia and Georgia. After that the same approaches could be applied to the Abkhazian side, he said.

Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin, who was representing the Russian defense ministry at the talks with Georgia, emphasized that the issue of the Russian-Georgian border regulations along the river Psou cannot be addressed without the Abkhazian side either. He proposed that the parties reconsider the issue of setting up a control commission for the purpose of disengaging the warring sides, indicating that some of the observation posts could be manned by UN personnel. He indicated that the sides ought to cease fire before signing a peace and cooperation agreement between Russia and Georgia. "Conflicts can only be settled in a peaceful atmosphere," he concluded.

IF Note: At the Sochi talks, the sides have successfully resolved thirteen financial issues, including that on trade and economic cooperation, on allocation of a financial credit to Georgia, and on free trade. Pavel Grachev believes, however, that it would only be possible to sign economic agreements after a political agreement has been reached.

On Thursday, representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan are expected to come to Sochi to discuss with the Russian defense minister the prospects for settling the Karabakh conflict.

Pavel Grachev told journalists he still had not accepted Eduard Shevardnadze's invitation to visit Tbilisi. "Unless we succeed in settling the military-political problem, which is the man issue on our agenda, there appears to be no need for such a meeting at this stage," he emphasized.

Russians 'Not Going To Compromise'

LD0904121093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi in Georgian 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent has just given us news from Sochi that last night, at 2300, groups of specialists and experts of Georgian and Russian governmental delegations got down to discussing each clause of the final draft agreement. The work continued until 0600 hours today. An agreement on nearly all issues has been reached, except on the location of the Russian Army on Georgian territory. At 1100 today, groups of experts at the meeting of delegations where Tenghiz Sigua and Pavel Grachev were present reported on the results of last night's work. Unfortunately, during the final discussion of issues, a disagreement cropped up again. It became evident that the Russian delegation was not going to compromise. Specifically, during preliminary talks an apparent agreement had been reached to withdraw the troops from the territory of the Eshera laboratory, but this morning the Russian side raised an issue according to which the Eshera laboratory was a very important facility for the Russian Army and there would be no troop withdrawal. On the contrary, Grachev suggested to the Georgian side that Georgian and Abkhazian groups [as heard] of 20 representatives be brought into the territory of the Eshera and Bombora airfield. The Georgian side refused. The Russian side also denies participation of its military units in bombing Sukhumi. It became evident to the journalists present at the meeting that the Russian side found it difficult to come up with plausible evidence. At the moment, the meeting is still in progress. We shall inform you about the final results as soon as we get them.

Sigua Comments

LD0904151193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] [Announcer] It is sad to acknowledge that today relations between Russia and Georgia are far from being cloudless. Thus, in Sochi, Russian-Georgian talks are in progress. With a report from Tbilisi, here is Nikolay Mamulashvili, an IPRINDA agency correspondent.

[Mamulashvili] The Georgian delegation at the Russian-Georgian talks in Sochi was expected back in Tbilisi on the evening of 8 April. However, today, on 9 April, the head of the Georgian delegation at the talks, Prime Minister Tenghiz Sigua, who is still in Sochi, stated that the conferences would continue during the day on 9 April. He underlined that the talks had been proceeding with difficulty, and far from all the points, mainly concerning military and political questions, could be solved. According to Sigua, starting from 10 a.m. on 9 April, three principal sections will continue to work—the political, military, and trading and economic sections. The latter is the only section of these three in which the parties managed to come to agreement and find common consent with hardly any problem. During the work of this section, bank and customs relations between these two countries have also been discussed.

The most difficult problem, the prime minister underlined, is Abkhazia. While everything is clear about the withdrawal of the Russian sub-units located in Eshera—there is a consent about their withdrawal—a lot remains to be looked into concerning other troops located in the region. According to Sigua, at the routine meeting on 8 April, Georgian Defense Minister Tenghiz Kitovani put a question point-blank about the withdrawal of all Russian troops from the area of the conflict. However, the views of the parties, the prime minister said, diverged completely concerning the air-landing regiment located near the village of Bombora, near Gudauta. The Russian side requests not to withdraw this regiment for some time. The standing of the Georgian party on this question, stressed Sigua, is as follows: The regiment was brought into the region unlawfully and we still insist on its withdrawal. According to the prime minister, if the parties are not able to reach an accord in the military-political questions, it might bring to naught all agreements reached by the delegations in other fields and areas.

[Announcer] As our correspondent Boris Pekhovkin has just reported from Sochi, it seems that opinions about the deadlock character of the talks are not groundless. In the opinion of the head of the Russian delegation, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, during the negotiations the Georgian party did not show any goodwill. Offers made by the Russian delegation do not receive proper understanding. To briefly summarize the situation at the talks at the present moment, only an exchange of views can be verified. A deeper exploration of the counterparts' position may be put off for future encounters. The final results of the talks will be known in a few hours.

Three Points of Disagreement

LD0904105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Sochi April 9 TASS—Georgia has agreed practically to the whole of the compromise offered by Russia in a special protocol on Friday.

Three points of the document are still to be agreed upon, including the stay of Russian troops in Abkhazian-controlled Gaudauta region, as well as of the Russian garrison protecting the seismic laboratory in Eshery.

It is possible that the issues will go as a separate part of the protocol which will allow to continue talks until a complete accord.

Experts continue to work on the protocol and the final meeting of heads of the Russian and Georgian delegations is scheduled for 12.00 GMT.

If the protocol is signed it may open a way to a Russian-Georgian summit.

Sigua Cited on Problems

OW0904123193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia accepts a large part of the protocol Russia prepared on the Georgian-Russian negotiations in Sochi, stated Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, who heads the Georgian delegation, on Friday [9 April] during negotiations. However, he said, three issues in the protocol require further revision. Groups of experts were now working on the matter, and they will present their alternatives to the delegation's leaders by the end of the day.

According to the prime minister, the three issues are: the full withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the seismic laboratory in Eshery; the determination of the status of the 345th Russian Regiment stationed in the Gudauta region; and the guarding of the Russia-Georgia border.

Russia feels that it is the responsibility of the sovereign state to provide border forces to guard the border from Georgia's side, and that it makes no sense to argue over who should guard the border.

Tbilisi claims that the 345th Airborne Regiment was brought into the Gudauta Region from Gyandzhi (Azerbaijan) without Georgia's consent. Therefore the unit has no official status. Moscow claims that this regiment was brought in after a decision by the Russian government within the framework of Moscow agreements stemming from the aggravation of the situation in Abkhazia in order to conduct peacekeeping activities, protect and evacuate Russian citizens, and guard military installations that belong to Russia.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated that the 345th Regiment was not conducting and would not conduct military actions, although, thanks to the regiment, tens of thousands of civilians had been evacuated. The regiment, he said, was located temporarily on Abkhazian territory, pending the full settlement of the conflict, and may be withdrawn from Georgian territory, like other Russian units, only after decisions from the heads of the states.

The Russian minister said that the decision to leave Russian troops at the laboratory in Esheri was final. This was the only state establishment of the Russian Federation subject to protection and maintenance today. "We consent to joint restoration and use of this establishment in the future," said Grachev, but "at present there can be no talk of withdrawing Russian troops from the territory of the laboratory." "We propose bringing divisions of Georgian and Abkhazian troops to the territory."

Grachev Views Outcome

LD0904153793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Sochi that following the Russian-Georgian negotiations there, a document was signed. This is what the head of Russia's delegation, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, said about it: This is the first step toward our meetings in the future on all different levels. We have made an attempt to lay a foundation, a basis, for a future meeting of the two presidents and for the possibility, in the future, to sign specific agreements. The document that we have signed today may be described as a report for our respective presidents. Of course, one would have liked to achieve more, but at least what we have done is the first brick in the edifice that both sides are busy building.

Protocol Signed

LD0904162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1526 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 9 April—Russia and Georgia announced today that they are willing "to put an end to the prolonged bloodshed and make a constructive step toward achieving a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia." The protocol, signed today by the government delegations, says that both states "have resolutely spoken in favor of an urgent and complete cease-fire without any preconditions and for banning all use of force, a cease-fire which will bring on the start of a transitional stage during which a series of confidence-building measures on both sides will be implemented." In accordance with the protocol, the commission on monitoring and inspection in Abkhazia will resume its activities, with some of its participants replaced and their general number increased.

The Russian side has said that it is ready to discuss this matter with representatives of Abkhazia as well as other issues relating to the peace settlement. Russian and Georgia have confirmed the accords previously reached to the effect that Russian troops are to stay in Georgia till the end of 1995 and to be withdrawn to the Russian Federation [RF] by 31 December 1995 in accordance with a schedule, unless the two sides express mutual interest in continuing military and technical cooperation. The RF border troops are to leave Georgia by the end of 1994. The Russian and Georgian sides have spoken in favor of using the potential of the United Nations and CSCE more actively in searching for a settlement in Abkhazia. An understanding has been reached on providing humanitarian aid to and evacuating from the conflict zone in Abkhazia the people affected by the conflict, regardless of their ethnic origin and religious denomination.

Commenting on results of the delegations' work, Tengiz Sigua, the Georgian prime minister, described the document as "a real step toward resolving and settling the Abkhazian conflict." In his turn, Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, who headed the Russian delegation, said that the main result of the meeting is "that conditions have been created for holding a bilateral summit to sign concrete agreements."

Abkhaz Representative Reacts

LD1104060493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] We have received the text of a statement by the plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Abkhazia in the Russian Federation on the negotiations between delegations from the governments of Russia and Georgia which are taking place in Sochi. The negotiations, intended to find a way to end the war in Abkhazia, essentially ended with no results, the plenipotentiary representative considers. A conclusion of this kind is quite in order, as the third party concerned—the Republic of Abkhazia—was not present. This is not the first time, the statement emphasizes, when attempts have been made to settle the fate of Abkhazia behind her back. It should be remembered, however, that no settlement of this kind will have desirable consequences. Obviously, the main condition for achieving peace in the region for the Abkhaz side is the prompt withdrawal of all Georgian military formations from the territory of the republic. Abkhazia is ready for civilized negotiations, during which it would be possible to come to a mutually acceptable settlement, states the plenipotentiary representative of Abkhazia in the Russian Federation.

Diplomacy Mission Demands End to Intervention in Abkhazia

OW0904134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A permanent international civil diplomacy mission, which includes social figures from Russia, Georgia, Chechnya, and other countries, has demanded an end to "Russian intervention in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict."

The mission's coordinator, Nikolay Diko, said at a press conference in Moscow Friday [9 April] that during a recent visit to the region, members of this non-government organization "came to the conclusion that Russian armed forces are conducting bombing raids not of gun emplacements, but of residential areas." Over 1200 apartment houses had been damaged in the bombings; 109 civilians had been killed, and 326 wounded, claimed speakers at the press conference.

Diko said Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's claims that the bombings were conducted by Georgian air forces with Russian Air Force markings were "lies

intended for fools." The mission's coordinator expressed his fear that such statements could be followed by "broad scale intervention." "There is reason to believe that they are trying to draw Russia into a new military-political venture, like the Afghan one," said Diko.

Talks Continue With Ukraine on Division of Fleet

LD1004220293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Another round of talks took place on 10 April in Moscow between the state delegations of Ukraine and Russia on issues of dividing the Black Sea Fleet and forming on its basis the naval forces of Ukraine and the Russian Federation's Navy on the Black Sea. The discussion of draft agreements as regards the implementation of the Yalta agreements and control over the fleet during the transitional period was continued. Draft agreements on joint command, technical and logistics support, and on the system of manning the fleet were coordinated, in order for them to be submitted for examination by the presidents of the two countries.

In the first place, the sides paid attention to the issue of settling financial problems of the Black Sea Fleet. It was decided that during the next week a variant which will suit both Ukraine and Russia would be worked out. The delegations were headed by Vasyl Durdynets, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, and Yuriy Yarov, deputy head of the Russian Federation's Government.

Kiev Seeks To Revise Yalta, Dagomys Agreements

OW1204102593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the most recent round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet held in Moscow over the weekend, Kiev undertook one more attempt to revise the Yalta and Dagomys agreements, a top-ranking Russian diplomat who participated in the negotiations reported to Interfax on Monday [12 April]. The Russian delegation was headed by Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov and the Ukrainian - by deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Vasyl Durdynets.

"We have an impression that the Ukrainian party does not respect the signature of their own president under these documents," the diplomat told Interfax. He explained that according to the existing agreements, during the interim period the parties should stick to a parity principle in staffing the Black Sea Fleet. However, the Ukrainian party asserts that this principle is acceptable only with respect to ships, and all coastal services of the Black Sea Fleet must be staffed with the conscripts from Ukraine.

Besides, Kiev believes that only "floating vehicles" are destined to division in case it takes place, and the coast basing and logistics systems should automatically become Ukrainian property. "If we agree to this then the Fleet will be entirely Ukrainian and Russia, without any doubt, cannot agree to this," said the diplomat.

He reported that the next round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations concerning "formation of the Ukrainian Navy and Russian Navy on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet" will be held in Kiev.

Fleet Commanders Concerned

OW1204131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Military Fleet commanders are seriously concerned with the position of the Ukraine on the Russia-Ukraine negotiations which ended this weekend in Moscow. The commanders think this position does not favor the stabilization of the Fleet's situation. As was told to "INTERFAX" by a source close to the Russian Military Fleet command, Ukraine called in question the agreement on financing the fleet which was initialed earlier. Ukraine insists that the financial allowances which under the agreement concluded earlier should have been indicated by the Fleet command, and were equal to Russian ones, but must become equal to the Ukraine ones. According to the source's opinion such action will considerably reduce the living standards of seamen and strain the social situation on the Fleet, as the Ukraine financial allowances are lower than the Russian ones.

In addition, Ukraine looks after the question of Fleet recruitment. Ukraine insists that the principle of "50-50" recruitment, agreed earlier, will be saved only for sailing personnel. The coast units are to be recruited in Ukraine. The Russian side can't agree with this fact.

Shokhin Holds News Conference on Baltic Relations

LD0904180493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr—Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, held a conference today on Russia's relations with the Baltic countries. Taking part in it were the leaders of Russian Federation state delegations to the talks with the Baltic countries, as well as representatives from Russian ministries and departments.

Confirmation was given of the need to link the political, military, economic, humanitarian, and other questions covered by the process of interstate talks. It was particularly stressed that the nature of trade and economic links with the countries in the region must correspond to the extent to which the they have resolved the problems arising in connection with the withdrawal of Russian troops and with the observance of the rights of the Russian-speaking population.

The state delegations are given responsibility for implementing a unified and coordinated line in the resolution of these issues.

Kozyrev Protests Afghan Group's Attack on Border Troops

LD1004163893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1536 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Following an attack on a duty post of the Moscow border detachment of Russian border troops on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Russian foreign minister has once again appealed to leaders and senior politicians of Afghanistan to do their utmost to prevent such incidents from taking place in the future and to continue to implement the policy of stabilizing the situation in border regions, which has taken shape in recent days. The department of information and press of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Andrey Kozyrev expressed condolences to the relatives of the dead Russian officer, to servicemen affected, and to the command and personnel of the border detachment.

A recent visit to Tajikistan and to the Moscow border detachment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs report says, allowed the foreign minister to see for himself the endurance and heroism of Russian border guards and the officers and soldiers of the 201st division stationed in the republic. Andrey Kozyrev is convinced that they have every right to use all means at their disposal to resolutely repulse attacks of bandit groupings.

Yeltsin Announces Plan To Visit Japan Before G-7 Summit

OW1204105193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he was planning to pay a preliminary visit to Japan before the G-7 summit, to which he had been officially invited.

The president said so on Monday [12 April] as he gave national decorations to a group of scientists, cultural figures, and armed forces officers. Those awarded included the president of the Japanese Association of Former Prisoners of War, Roguro Saito, who was given the Order of Friendship of Peoples.

Yeltsin expressed the hope that, in the near future, Russia would have the kind of normal partnership with Japan it had with many other countries.

Speaking about Russia's foreign policy, the president said, "We are fulfilling our commitments under the SALT treaties. We agreed that we would start negotiations so that all five nuclear powers stopped underground nuclear tests simultaneously. Reason must win everywhere and forever."

Commenting on the forthcoming referendum, Yeltsin said, "We have the kind of adversaries that don't exist in America. They are difficult to fight. They are cunning and very experienced adversaries." He expressed the hope that those awarded and their colleagues would take part in the referendum and say yes. "Russia's future depended on the referendum, he said.

G-7 Meeting, Japanese Minister's Remarks Viewed

LD0904161293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Alexander Krylovich and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Russia will take part in the meeting of "seven" foreign and financial ministers, proceeding from a recent statement by Japanese Premier Miyazawa, saying his government does not bind up financial interaction and bilateral relations with Russia, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

Taking into account the Japanese stand, the Russian foreign minister would be ready to discuss Russian-Japanese relations when in Tokyo.

At the same time, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy called attention to Wednesday's pronouncement of newly-appointed Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, which conveyed the well-known Japanese stand on Japanese-Russian relations and toughly confirmed indivisibility of the economy and politics. Such pronouncements, in the opinion of the Russian Foreign Ministry, hardly create a favourable background for the discussion of bilateral issues during Kozyrev's Japanese stay.

Asked whether the Russian minister will discuss the date of Yeltsin's visit to Japan, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy did not exclude such a possibility.

Fedorov Discusses Upcoming G-7 Ministerial Meeting

LD1004122993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr—"Russia should really see some perceptible results in aid from the G-7 countries this year," Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov said at the press center of the Russian Federation Government today. He held a news conference dedicated to the forthcoming Tokyo meeting of the G-7 foreign and finance ministers, which Russia will be participating in. The meeting will be held on 14 and 15 April. Fedorov expressed an opinion that this meeting should "broach five to ten specific elements of the aid

package, and specific mechanisms for the implementation of this package ought to be worked out."

He said that it looks like the final aid package will be formed at the G-7 summit, which is expected to take place in Tokyo in July. At the same time, the deputy prime minister spoke in favor of holding this summit earlier than that.

Fedorov said that if what happens at the April meeting of foreign and finance ministers "is simply a general discussion, and if it does not adopt a decision which will facilitate the examination of specific mechanisms for the implementation of aid," it would be "the worse variant." Having noted that the size of aid which the G-7 countries are planning to give to Russia is not yet known, Fedorov said that "each element of the package of financial and economic aid ought to be supported by specific actions."

He expressed an opinion that issues connected with providing support for small businesses in Russia and forming a fund for reform will be discussed, in particular, in Tokyo next week." [quotation marks as received] The deputy prime minister added that the Russian Government needs this fund to have the financial means for urgent needs, "flexible reaction funds" to support specific enterprises and industries in order "to conduct the stabilization process in Russia without any losses, including losses in the social sphere." Fedorov stressed that financial and economical aid for Russia should be based on the principles of glasnost so that "it does not 'dissolve' in some bureaucratic structures."

Replying to a question referring to the fact that President Boris Yeltsin's name is to a large extent a synonym of Russian reforms for the West, Fedorov stressed that "there is no alternative to Yeltsin today...he is guarantor of stability and further development of reforms." He added: "That is why I think that the G-7 countries will make the right choice." The deputy prime minister said that at the time of a complex political situation in Russia the country's leadership "should not sacrifice anyone for political benefits."

Touching upon the problem of the falling ruble rate against the dollar, Fedorov spoke against the introduction of a fixed ruble rate: "Any attempts to devise a method for fixing the ruble rate other than the market method will lead to lamentable consequences... A wise person won't try to fix it." The deputy prime minister also said that according to his information the Russian Central Bank has no intention of introduing a fixed ruble rate either."

Says Aid Must Be 'Well Defined'

LD1004113393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent R. Safronov] Our government hopes that last year's situation with foreign aid, which was much talked about but brought few results, will not occur again this year. Boris Fedorov, deputy prime minister and finance minister, said this today at a news conference on the forthcoming meeting of the G7 foreign and finance ministers in Tokyo. Concrete aid packages for Russia are being discussed, the purpose of which is to support small businesses. Fedorov believes:

[Begin Fedorov recording] All aid mechanisms must be sufficiently well defined—it must be quite clear where this money is going. [end recording]

[Safronov] Russia expects that an aid fund for reforms will be set up as a result of the Tokyo meeting. However, allocating money would only make sense only if the rate of inflation is slowed down, the minister said; otherwise there will be no progress in the production sphere. In his opinion, the last two months inspire some hope.

Food aid, if it is sent at all, will be sold at market prices in order to prevent it from being stolen and becoming an object of machinations, and the proceeds of the sales will be directed into the social protection sphere. Attempts to regulate the ruble exchange rate as against the dollar by artificial means are unacceptable since they will end in a catastrophe, he believes.

Yeltsin 'Epitomizes Reform'

OW1004132793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov told newsmen Saturday [10 April] the Big Seven are doing the right thing by linking the Russian reform to the name of Boris Yeltsin.

To a great extent Yeltsin epitomizes reform, said the Vice-Premier, and guarantees stable advance.

Fedorov felt the people's deputies might again meet in congress late this month. He felt support of an individual was justified because support of reforms which would not be carried out, made no sense.

Addressing the forthcoming conference of the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Big Seven, the Russian Vice-Premier favored the linkage of international aid to Russia to the successful realization of the Russian reform, first and foremost financial stabilization.

The world's industrialized nations could help Russia square its own and formerly Soviet debts with western creditors, encourage small and private businesses and set up a special reform foundation which, in Fedorov's view, would be needed to provide the Russian government with additional sums for resolving the most pressing problems of the government crackdown period. Fedorov said the government would appreciate the creation of a 5-billion-dollar foundation.

The Tokyo summit of the Big Seven, scheduled to take place next July, would pass a final decision on aid to Russia and the Russian Vice-Premier would appreciate it if the summit took place earlier than scheduled.

Moscow To Seek $24 Billion

OW1004121393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, April 10 KYODO—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov said Saturday [10 April] Russia hopes to obtain aid of more than 24 billion dollars from western industrial nations.

Fedorov, who is concurrently finance minister, will represent Russia at a ministerial meeting of seven western nations to be held in Tokyo next week to discuss aid to Russia.

Attending the meeting Wednesday and Thursday will be foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Fedorov told a news conference in Moscow that Russia hopes the amount of western aid to be set at the Tokyo conference will exceed that pledged by the group last year.

The G-7 nations agreed to extend 24 billion dollars in aid to Russia at their summit meeting held in Munich, Germany, in June last year.

Fedorov said Russia is ready to invite representatives of the G-7 nations to Moscow to study the effective use of aid funds.

He also said he will propose that the G-7 nations establish a 5 billion dollar fund to support industrial reforms in Russia as the core of an additional aid package.

He stressed the need for the Russian Government to enhance job opportunities to stabilize the country.

Fedorov said Russia will soon reach agreement on rescheduling its commercial debts with a group of creditor firms, known as the London Club.

Creditor nations have already agreed to reschedule 15 billion dollars worth of Russia's external debt.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets 'Arafat in Tunis

LD1004061693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0603 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgi Kuvaldin]

[Text] Rabat April 10 TASS—Chairman of the Executive Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat had a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister B. Kolokolov in Tunis on Friday. Kolokolov handed over to Yasir 'Arafat a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin concerning the Arab-Israeli talks, the Palestine news agency "WAFA" reported.

According to the agency, the message supports "legal rights of the Palestine people" and expresses the necessity of establishing durable peace in the Middle East.

The PLO chairman informed the Russian representative of "obstacles put by Israel in the way of the continuing peace process", the agency reported.

Referendum & Political Issues

Further on Yeltsin Meeting With Mass Media Leaders

Yeltsin Addresses Journalists

LD0904180793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Statement by President Boris Yeltsin at a meeting with heads of the mass media in Moscow on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] I think your fourth branch of power is the only one that is not experiencing a crisis at present. There are no demarcations among you; you continue to work normally.

Yesterday I had a meeting with the leading Russian lawyers—Russia's top specialists, real giants of the legal profession. I urged them: go and meet with the mass media; these are some of the nation's top brains. We had an interesting conversation about statehood, the Constitution, and constitutionality! Frankly speaking, I do not intend to appeal to the Constitutional Court. I simply want to notify the Constitutional Court that the Congress' resolution on these questions, on these points [of the referendum] is unconstitutional and contradicts the law. Thus I, as a guarantor of the Constitution and the law in Russia, will act in accordance with the law and will have the votes counted in accordance with the law. This is all. After all, the referendum is not just one of those things. This is Russia's destiny, and you all understand this perfectly well. If there is no president, the power will be taken by very extreme forces, and this will result in the mass media collapsing back, and life in Russia as a whole will go into reverse. Then the whole world will shudder, because this will mean a real catastrophe for the economy, for the material base, for everything.

There are four questions in the referendum—you know what they are. In general, from a moral viewpoint I am urging yes on all four of them. Some regions, however, do not agree and are saying: No with respect to the third question, which speaks of reelecting the president; we will nevertheless urge the voters to vote no. Well, that is their matter. My personal position is this: It is more simple for everyone and it is more simple too for an 80-year- old grandmother if she is told that it is yes to everything and that no is to be crossed out, and that is it.

Mainly, I want to listen to you and hear what your readers think and what the views of your collectives are prior to 25 April.

I do apologize, but let us have self-service today. Therefore, do not feel constrained. Let everyone get up and pour themselves some coffee, tea, or water. I am going to pour myself some coffee.

Journalists Make Statements

LD1004011193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Statements by mass media leaders at a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 9 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [I. Golembiyovskiy, IZVESTIYA] Boris Nikolayevich, for the referendum to serve not only the president but also ideas of democracy and the establishment of this idea, it seems to me that it is the president who has the most to do.

What seems very important is this: In one respect you must be grateful to the Congress for the fact that it caused the president's popularity rating to rise unusually high. At the same time, Boris Nikolayevich, another problem arose. Those stormy events came to an end, and the population again began taking an interest in the political situation. Society began to lose its political apathy, and unfortunately, society has not received further support from the president for its interest in developing events.

You are a popularly elected president, and you are president both of the democratic part of society and president of the opposition. No one can fail to reckon with this. It seems to me that before the referendum your appeal to the people, or the pivot on which these relations must be built, must be based on the fact that the people are supporting not only Yeltsin, but the people are supporting the idea of democracy.

[Oleg Poptsov, All-Russian State TV and Radio Company] We cannot live according to a principle whereby the Russian president is more respected in America and his respect in Russia will be falling in direct proportion. I think you understand that very well, and your tactics and your concept must be stressed very clearly at this time.

I would suggest that the president make an appeal to the opposition: Put yourself ahead in the game, making that the aim, perhaps devoting one of your appearances entirely to that, to a dialogue with an intransigent opposition, a transigent opposition, whichever. [passage omitted]

[V. Chupakhin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Boris Nikolayevich, there is no need for me to tell you that the topic of the Army and the referendum is specific and complex. As for whether the Army will come to the referendum, I personally consider that it will come, if only because it is more organized and because of its habits; they will come, at least in prosperous units there is no disputing that.

The question of how they will vote in the polling booths is more difficult. I personally consider that the background is fairly favorable—in the prosperous formations and units, that is—because people have felt some a certain stabilization, a certain calming, in recent months. I think the refrain of the last few months was chosen very

correctly, very accurately: that the Army must not be used for political ends. The appeal made by the president for the Army to show a certain neutrality works essentially in his own interests, I think, all the more so because it takes into account the state and the mood of the army at present.

[V. Starkov, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] I think that you, the people's president, must have personal contact with TV viewers. You must make both radio appeals and TV appearances, but not against a background of gold and malachite, not against the background of the Kremlin, but in some kind of impartial soft domestic setting, where you would answer two or three of the most topical questions.

You understand, you need to forget the fact that the intelligentsia supports you unambiguously. Why work with the intelligentsia? It is good to work with the masses, but you must work with every individual. It seems to me that this is the key, it is simple, but very important.

[Yeltsin] Interesting, all these angles. [passage omitted]

[A. Potapov, TRUD] The president will unite people and he must show that this is so daily and constantly by his deeds, words and all his, so to speak, political and social conduct. The mass of people are not deputies, nor are they party members, especially since the downfall of the CPSU, nor are they nationalists. Finally, the mass of people are not yet entrepreneurs or millionaires, and so on. Therefore, it is necessary to show to these people that the president is indeed a unifier, who cuts out extremists and those attempting to intimidate people with a split, including in respect of the referendum. One of the points being made after all was that, if the referendum is held, there will be civil war. I think that this circumstance is being underestimated and right from the outset not enough has been done to take advantage of this unique opportunity to unite people around the cause and work of democracy and reorganization of the economy so that they feel themselves to be alongside the president working against a split.

There needs to be a realistic self-appraisal of mistakes and achievements and an appraisal of the alternative and what awaits us all, if, say, this president departs and if such and such a situation occurs in the elections. I think that people have grown accustomed to seeing Yeltsin the way he is and are entitled to expect now more constant openness and more in this respect.

[A. Pronin, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] It seems to me that you are not only the president of democratic Russia—indeed democratic Russia is defending you and will be voting for you—but also the president of Russia, and the key word for me in the referendum is the word Russia. [passage omitted]

[A. Lisin, VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA] Reform has already given people a great deal, and it needs to be highlighted and directly emphasized what reform has already given them.

[N. Bragin, Ostankino TV] It seems to me that the capital, the major centers, and the large cities will vote in favor of reform and in favor of the president. I think that the struggle should now be waged first and foremost for the remote regions and for the provinces. I reckon that in this connection the efforts being made are totally insufficient. I think that in your political activity more stress should be laid on the peasant, the working person, and the toiler, because we have as a rule been forgetting about these people. We may speak of students, women, and pensioners, but we have, of course, to a great extent been forgetting about the most important creative category.

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

Yeltsin on Constitution, Referendum

MK1004132293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 3

[Mariya Seliverstova report: "Authorities Before Referendum. President Hopes for Victory, but Also Ready for Elections]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is confident that the people are going to support him in the 25 April referendum. The president stated this at the meeting in the Kremlin with heads of a number of newspapers and television and radio companies. Boris Yeltsin also revealed that 10 key principles of a new Constitution drafted by his team will be published by the time balloting day arrives. These principles will form the basis for his election campaign if the electorate votes for early presidential elections.

Boris Yeltsin stated at the meeting with heads of the media that he attaches special significance to the first and fourth questions of the referendum, although he still calls on the voters to say "yes" to all four questions. In the event that the voters express confidence in the president and vote for early elections of the deputy corps, the federal legislative branch would lose its powers and Boris Yeltsin would act "according to the system of presidential power" until new elections.

Despite his confidence that he would receive support, Boris Yeltsin also analyzed the possibility of getting negative answers. In his view, "if there is no president, power will be taken by extremist forces. The whole world would shudder, because that would really be a disaster for the economy." Therefore, should the referendum results prove unfortunate for him, Boris Yeltsin is ready to face early elections, remaining in the presidential post until that time.

The president attaches great importance to the Council of the Federation in stabilizing the political situation in Russia. In fact the idea of its creation has been supported

by the majority of regions. Boris Yeltsin thinks that this council should supplant the current bodies of power elected when the USSR still existed which, according to the president, are therefore illegitimate, and in fact take over power in the country. Boris Yeltsin also suggested that whatever the outcome of the April referendum, the Council of the Federation should name the date for the election of a president and deputies.

In this connection observers think it highly probable that one of the fundamental principles of "Yeltsin's" version of the Constitution will be precisely the clause about a Council of the Federation as one of the chambers of the supreme legislature. Boris Yeltsin also stated at the meeting in the Kremlin that on Friday he will sign an edict abolishing the higher price of gasoline and higher rents. According to Yeltsin, persons guilty of the unfounded price hikes would be removed from their jobs.

Taking part in the meeting with the president were Mikhail Poltoranin, Vyacheslav Bragin, Oleg Poptsov, Igor Golembiovskiy, Aleksandr Lisin, Pavel Gusev, and others.

Yeltsin Tells Government To Prepare for Referendum

LD1004003693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation has instructed the head of the Russian Federation Government to set up a commission to prepare the referendum on 25 April. The members will be from among those who were in the previous commission. Boris Yeltsin's instruction of 2 February on setting up a commission under Vladimir Shumeyko is recognized as no longer valid.

Further on Local Soviets' Conference on Referendum

Ryabov Addresses Conference

LD1004225393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1402 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Speech by Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov to a conference of people's deputies of local soviets in Moscow on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] As you recall, the Eighth Congress had deemed it inexpedient to hold an all-Russian referendum on 11 April on the main provisions of the new draft constitution. The motives have already been presented in a sufficiently detailed and broad manner. These include demands by representative and executive bodies of the subjects of the Federation, the possibility of an equivocal legal interpretation of the results, the inadequacy of referendum legislation, and a whole number of other reasons that prevented us from taking that step.

At the Ninth Extraordinary Congress, however, the issue of the referendum was again raised at the president's initiative, but by then as a completely different question. In the end, the congress deemed it possible to announce a referendum, understanding that the entire responsibility rests with the federal bodies of power and not with the president alone. This was done irrespective of a whole number of very weighty arguments against the referendum.

Assessing the congress decision to announce a popular vote on 25 April on a whole block of questions—there are four of them—we should, first and foremost, emphasize its aim to attempt to overcome the crisis in mutual relations between the federal legislative and executive authorities. At the same time, however, we declare that this is far from the best way to resolve the conflict. The situation itself forces us to reach for it. It would be a very great illusion to play jokes with the referendum. A referendum is an extraordinarily serious instrument of power. It would not be an exaggeration to say that a flexible combination of both representative and direct democracy are needed for the effective functioning of the state and the society.

And so, having undertaken to carry out a referendum, it is necessary to understand the full responsibility for its legal, political, and other consequences. We believe that the referendum—as a mechanism of people's power and as a means of really discovering the will of the people—is only possible when normal socioeconomic conditions have been created for the life of the people. Only then is the active role of the voters real and great. Only then can they fully express their will. I emphasize once again that it is the representative power, in the person of the soviets, that is organizing and carrying out the referendum. It is that power that organizes the work of those commissions, supervises it, and ultimately bears responsibility for the political results that we shall obtain.

Today you have the right to adopt a provision on the observation councils. Form them before we have proposed some standard—on principles of parity—to the cofounders [sentence as heard]. Include in them representatives of the independent political forces, movements, and trade unions. This must be done in the coming week, however. Also in the coming week, the appropriate council must make a decision to become a cofounder of the television and radio companies in your regions, which members of the Federation have.

It cannot be delayed for a single day. Only in this way will it be possible to have a direct influence on that monopolism that I would not shy away from calling the usurpation of free speech, which, unfortunately, many, many members of the media are guilty of today. We can see cases everywhere today, where officials—and I stress officials, not to mention the fact that they are simply citizens of the Russian Federation—use their official powers either to disseminate material and documents, or in fact to make public calls that say, for instance: the Congress is obsolete; down with the congress. What is

that? It is an open call to liquidate and overthrow a constitutional body of authority.

We are not talking about the deputies. We are talking about a body, a body such as the president—not Yeltsin, but the president as an institution. Calls of this kind thus contain a corpus delicti.

Following on from this, we must all understand that 25 April is not at all a Rubicon that, once crossed, will find us in a new country, a new legal world with different political forces. No, no, and no again. Here one must be aware that the area of accord—accord between the authorities—will inevitably be (?discussed) after the referendum has been held.

In my view, as early as today, we have to look seriously at the establishment of some sort of a guarantee mechanism that would prevent political confrontation from acquiring a new quality, from moving into the streets, or even turning into a civil war. The essence of the matter is that both branches of authority, not just here at the top, but at the bottom as well, should reach an agreement on ruling out parallel interpretations of the results of the referendum. Unfortunately, the referendum stirred up the polarization of forces and relations between the executive power at the top and at the bottom in many places. Both branches of authority should make absolutely sure that the referendum's results do not lead to abrupt actions by the president or by the legislative power.

Khasbulatov, Ryabov Remarks Reported

LD0904161693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1208 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent, Aleksandr Ruvinskiy, was present at the conference of representatives of the local soviets today. He is in the studio now.

[Ruvinskiy] Opening the conference, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that it was planned a long time ago, but somehow could not be held because of the complicated political situation. Today too, the problems of the local soviets were, naturally, pushed aside by the questions connected with crystallization of the constitutional system and the forthcoming referendum. One could sense a certain lack of confidence among the deputies, many of whom arrived without their deputies' badges. This already means something. Perhaps, many are already embarrassed to wear them. This is the impression I have. Some rather sharp remarks were being made about the executive, the government in particular. Thus, in his speech Khasbulatov repeatedly called the present government a collective Rasputin. Doubts were expressed as to the lawfulness of the institution of the Presidency. Speaking about the recent Ninth Congress, Khasbulatov called it the defender of the fatherland. This is what he had to say, in part, about the present political situation:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] It is also evident today that people now better understand [word indistinct]. It is not accidental that committees for protection of the constitutional system are springing up so rapidly everywhere. As a result of the recent congresses and conflicts deliberately imposed on them, all the powers have been seriously weakened. State power, while being based on the principle of division, is a whole. There can be only power or anarchy. We can have either an efficient power or inefficient anarchy. I often had to say this in my conversations with the president, the government, and other influential people that attempt to bring dissonance to the congress, to weaken the influence of the president, the executive power itself...[pauses] And all this was like the voice of one crying in the wilderness. [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] Naturally, the other theme of the meeting was preparations for the referendum. Here Khasbulatov noted that malicious lies about so-called reds and browns are being spread to artificially inflate passions. I should say here that if Khasbulatov himself had arrived on foot, and not in a car, at the parliamentary center where the conference was taking place, he would have seen those slogans that I saw and that many people indeed are now trying hard not to notice. Similar slogans, by the way, were recently being proclaimed from the White House balcony when certain groups held their meetings there. One of the main tasks, of the procurator as well, mentioned at this conference, was prevention of the so-called state racket in the process of preparations for the referendum; that is, the possible bribing of the voters. The chairman of the parliament believes that the most likely outcome of the referendum will be early elections of both the president and the deputies. He does not exclude the possibility that right after the referendum a congress will have to be convened for this purpose. The address by parliament Deputy Chairman Ryabov was devoted solely to the problems of the referendum. Here is what he has said about voting on the fist and the second questions:

[Begin Ryabov recording] The final decision on possible resignations, based on the results of the referendum, should be made by the president himself, because this procedure has not been laid out by the constitution. Therefore, the results of the vote of confidence in the president—that is, the results of voting on the first as well as the second question—cannot have clear legal consequences. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] However, according to Ryabov, the third and the fourth questions should have clear legal consequences.

[Announcer] I should add that practically everyone who is talking about the referendum believes that its most probable outcome will be early elections of both the president and the deputies.

Deputies Urge Restraint

LD0904202293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1822 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Yuriy Filipov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—An all-Russian conference of local council deputies called on all Russian people's deputies, local authorities, political parties and public associations "to show wisdom and restraint and do not yield to extremists' attempts of their involvement in the destructive struggle for power".

The draft document also calls on Russian citizens "to clearly voice their attitude at the upcoming referendum to the current social-economic policy as the policy of destruction, demand its correction and radical changes in the country's leadership". The draft was basically approved.

"Submit your remarks and we will take them into account," Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Yuriy Voronin, who chaired the conference, told deputies.

The meeting, held today at the Russian parliamentary center on the initiative of the Supreme Soviet, was attended by deputies from Russian district, city, village and settlement councils. It focused on the role of representative power bodies in stabilization of the Russian constitutional system, overcoming crisis phenomena in the economy and provision of the referendum.

Conference participants called special attention to the confrontation between the executive and legislative powers. They made numerous critical remarks in address of the president and his circle, which was presented as the main culprit for the powers' conflict and current crisis by the majority of conference speakers.

The latter were concerned over the threat of abolition of the councils' system. At the same time, they stressed the need to reduce "the excessive Russian deputies' corps". An opinion on future disappearance of the deputies' congress as the supreme power body "in a gradual evolutionary way" was voiced.

Summing up conference results, Ruslan Khasbulatov said deputies must think of state interests in a time of trial. Enumerating measures, which, in his opinion, are able to stop the statehood crisis, Khasbulatov mentioned local campaigns to recall Russian people's deputies, who have "merged with executive structures and receive tips from them".

The parliament speaker called on conference participants to "support the Russian state, which may be ruined by political adventurists".

Commenting on tasks of representative power bodies in referendum holding, Deputy Speaker Nikolay Ryabov stressed "agreeing to the referendum, we have taken on ourselves the responsibility for Russia's fate".

He said society needs both power branches, and in case of a negative answer to the question of confidence in the president, they must not discuss the abolition of presidential power as it is. Same goes to the question of early parliamentary elections - this must not be interpreted as a decision to abolish the congress.

Answers on early presidential and parliamentary elections will be juridical, and opinion on Yeltsin's activities will be "consultative". Only the president himself will decide on his further actions.

Document Alleges 'Smear Campaign'

OW0904192493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [9 April], the participants of the all-Russian conference of representatives of local Soviets of people's deputies appealed to the nation with an expression of their concern over "an attempt to establish unconstitutional rule in the country, impose an authoritarian regime, and dislodge the Soviets of People's Deputies."

In the wording of the final document adopted on the results of the conference, no one is conducting any constructive work with the representative power bodies, subjecting them to "a smear campaign" instead.

There is no alternative to "joint and coordinated activities of all the branches of power," the document reads. The participants of the conference ask the citizens of Russia "to show good judgment and restraint, and refrain from being pulled into a destructive struggle for power by the extremists."

In their appeal to military servicemen and personnel of the interior ministry, security and foreign intelligence agency, the participants of the conference point out that they ought to refrain from being used by various social and political forces in their vying for power and seeking "to take advantage of the referendum."

In summation, Chairman of the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov called on all the participants of the conference to "support the state" which, in his words, may "vanquish in the hands of adventurists."

He surmised that the executive branch is likely to allocate up to 100 Bn [billion] rubles to stage the referendum, suggesting to the participants of the conference to think about probable sources of these funds.

Khasbulatov called on them to be more active in recalling the deputies who, on his words, "have merged with the government structures and receive handouts from them." In his words, "half of the committees in the Supreme Soviet have taken collaborationist positions," including the committees for legislation, defense, security, human rights, and law and order.

Khasbulatov said that the new head of the parliamentary press service has disclosed that its employees indulged in "filing a dossier on the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and anyone could have access to the materials contained in it for a considerable fee."

Further on Khasbulatov Comments

PM0904192393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Lugovskaya report: "Whatever the Results of the Referendum, Parliament Will Uphold the Supreme Power of the Soviets"]

[Text] The soviets are the mainstay of democracy, and to talk about abolishing them today "would be simply ridiculous, since they are only just beginning to establish themselves in the new conditions," Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov stated at a meeting of deputies of all levels held 9 March in the capital's Parliamentary Center.

It was held in the best traditions of party economic aktiv meetings, incorporating monotonous and lengthy reports from top officials and direct instructions to deputies. But this seemed to parliamentary leaders to be insufficient. An order followed from the presidium—publish the speaker's report in the local press, since it formulated "the fundamental principles of our development."

A few words about principles of development. R. Khasbulatov stressed the need to strengthen the supreme legislative power and the representative branch as a whole in the sense of controlling the executive, accusing, in particular, the president of incompetent parallel lawmaking aimed at "torpedoing the soviets." He noted the good offices of the Ninth Congress, which had "forestalled anticonstitutional actions" by raising the question of dismissing the president, and stressed at the same time that effective actions were possible on the part of the legislative branch only given the coupling of "the Congress plus the Supreme Soviet": "If the Congress is dispersed, the Supreme Soviet will also be left helpless."

Noting the failure of economic reform in its first stage, R. Khasbulatov informed his colleagues from the localities that analysis of the reforms will be the main item on the agenda of the next, 10th, Congress. As the culprits of the economic crisis he named "the band of bigwigs, supported by the political regime, who enriched themselves on privatization." R. Khasbulatov advocates a strong federal government, accountable to parliament, instead of the current "collective Rasputin." Having described the referendum as an important democratic instrument, he expressed the hope that after it has been held, moderate political forces—the centrists—will come to the fore in society, since "the time of the destroyers is past."

Stressing that the Russian people are mature enough to make the correct decision, the speaker expressed confidence that "the population understands what it has to choose between—noisy congresses, or the thud of the jackboot at the door in the night."

The legal basis for holding the referendum, according to N. Ryabov, is untenable, and hence its consequences—legal and political—could lead to a new spiral of confrontation in society, and the soviets, as organizers of the referendum, would carry the responsibility for these consequences.

N. Ryabov gave deputies entirely specific explanations for his thesis of "responsibility for consequences." In particular, the soviets should "form councils at local level to monitor the mass media as early as next week" and take decisive measures to ensure that in the next few days the organs of soviet power "become cofounders of television and radio broadcasting companies."

N. Ryabov stressed in his report that "only the most naive people believe now in the advent of peace and stability" after the referendum. On the contrary, irrespective of the results, "accord" between the branches of power will narrow down to the formula "who has the better of whom?" The main thing in this situation, in his opinion, is interpretation of the results and the subsequent actions prompted by this interpretation. And hence "it is necessary to think about setting up an insurance mechanism."

It follows from N. Ryabov's obscure constitutional arguments that even a negative result on the first two questions—on confidence in the president and support for his socioeconomic course—will not have legal consequences for the president. Taking account of this legal weak spot he suggested that B. Yeltsin inform the people on the eve of the referendum how many votes he needs to determine his "presidential mandate" [prezidentskaya planka]," and also his subsequent intentions.

V. Kazakov, chairman of the All-Russian Commission for Holding the Referendum, explained the voting procedure at the meeting.

Civic Union Holds News Conference 10 Apr

Referendum 'To Reorient Reforms'

OW1004135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [10 April] evening the political consultative council of Civic Union intends to work out its position with respect to the referendum. In his interview with Interfax Vasiliy Lipitsky, chairman of Union's executive committee, noted that "on the whole the attitude towards the referendum is negative because it cannot practically solve the issues facing the country." At the same time, Lipitsky said, "if the referendum actually takes place, it will be necessary to use it in order to re-orient reforms to the well-being of the people and to

re-new power structures." "We appeal to vote for premature elections of the President and the deputies corps," Lipitsky said.

Rutskoy: No 'Reconciliation' With Yeltsin

LD1004183993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr—Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy sees no possibility of a reconciliation with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the time remaining before the referendum. He stated this today in answer to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent at a news conference given by Civic Union leaders, devoted to the forthcoming national poll. Developing his thought that it will be impossible to reach consensus with the president, Aleksandr Rutskoy noted that "the crisis in relations has taken place not against a background of personalities, but as a consequence of divergences in our views on economic policy," one notable result of which was "the 30 percent fall in agricultural production during 1992."

The vice president said that the crisis in relations between the two heads of state was aggravated by Boris Yeltsin's statement saying that if the people of Russia answer "yes" to the first and fourth referendum questions (on confidence in the president and the need for a reelection of deputies), then the congress and the parliament will be dissolved. "What will then be the system for realizing democracy?" asked Aleksandr Rutskoy. At the same time he expressed his approval at the Mordovian parliament's decision to abolish the article on the president from the republic's Constitution.

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Civic Union Executive Committee, denied rumors that the bloc has begun to split. Its unity was clearly confirmed by the presence at the news conference of leaders from all the parties, deputies' factions, and public organizations included in the Civic Union.

Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, read out the results of a sociological poll carried out by the "Public Opinion" foundation, according to which Civic Union's popularity rating among 12,000 Russian citizens who were polled was 22 percent (for comparison, the National Salvation Front's rating was two percent).

Criticizing the foreign economic policy of the president and the government, Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, said the results of the recent summit meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton show that the U.S. regards Russia "as a colonial country."

A draft document entitled "The Civic Union's Stand on the 25 April Referendum" adopted at today's meeting of the political and consultative council contains an appeal "to direct reforms towards improving the lives of the people" and a call to compatriots "to vote at the referendum for the renewal of authority, for early elections of the president and people's deputies."

Vote for Early Elections Urged

OW1104130193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [10 April], the Political Council of the Civic Union, an influential centrist organization, urged the Russian citizens to vote for early presidential and parliamentary elections. It also stated that participation in the referendum is one's civic and moral duty.

Chairman of the Civic Union's Executive Committee, Vasiliy Lipitskiy, said during a press conference on Saturday that the Civic Union had been against the referendum. "But if it takes place it should bring new people to power," he said.

The participants in the press conference mentioned that the materials published recently by some of the media point to what they called "ordered hysteria" on the eve of the referendum.

Chairman of the Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, Arkadiy Volskiy, stated in this connection that according to his sources, special services had been instructed to "discredit the Civic Union and its leaders so they would never be able to appear on the political stage again". "Even in earlier times, nothing of the kind was practiced," he said.

Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy believes that "the only achievement of the so-called reform is the growing crime rate". He also said that the reforms had caused agricultural production to go down sharply. Over 1992 agricultural production dropped by 30%, he said. During the four post-war years, agricultural production dropped by only 23%, he added.

He also expressed the opinion that the Mordovian parliament's decision to remove the Mordovian president from his post was taken in accordance with the Mordovian constitution.

"If the president failed to justify the hopes of the majority of the population, which is clear from the numerous letters coming to the Mordovian parliament, the decision taken by the Mordovian deputies was legitimate an constitutional," said Rutskoy. He also stated in this connection that the center should not interfere in the developments in Mordovia.

Asked about the Civic Union's attitude to the Russian-American summit, leader of the Democratic Party, Nikolay Travkin, said that he did not believe in the charitable nature of the American investments. Out of the $1.6 Bn [billion], extended to Russia, $700 Mn [million] is spent on purchasing grain, including $290 Mn paid to the US for transportation, although the

Russian fleet stays idle meanwhile. "It looks like Americans promote their own agriculture instead of helping us," he said. This idea was supported by Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Igor Klochkov.

Referendum Stance Outlined

LD1104225993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Nikolay Ivanov; from the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpts] Leading political experts believe that one of the results of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies was the failure of Russia's political center. It was thought that following a split among the centrists, the Civic Union leaders would like to distance themselves from the position of Vice President Rutskoy, who put himself in direct public confrontation to President Yeltsin, and they would also like to rid themselves of the Smena-Novaya Politika faction which put forward openly anti-presidential slogans at the last congress. However, the forecasts did not materialize.

Speaking at a news conference, the leaders of the Civic Union optimistically made a show of unity of the organizations which make up the bloc. Arkadiy Volskiy even took offense at the suggestion that he might abandon the centrist ship. In the runup to the referendum, the Civic Union intends to call upon its supporters to vote for pre-term elections of the president and the people's deputies. As for the first two questions entered in the referendum, the position here is quite unique—Civic Union does not intend to call on people to vote either in favor or against. [passage omitted]

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Civic Union executive committee, thinks that the most probable outcome of the referendum will be that the required number of votes on any of the key issues will not be achieved. This heats up passions, but will also promote pre-term elections of the parliament and the president, and this is precisely what the Civic Union wants, Vasiliy Lipitskiy thinks. [passage omitted]

Anyway, the idea of general pre-term elections, as a panacea for all troubles, and political maneuvering over the issue of confidence in the president and his policy in order to have a reserve option to fall back on if Yeltsin remains president will probably determine the Civic Union's political transformation before and after the referendum.

New Political Bloc Evolving Within Civic Union

MK1004114493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 2

[Aristarkh Vladimirov report published in "Top News" column: "Entrepreneurs' Coalition, 'Renewal' Bloc Find Common Ground"]

[Text] Participants in the Entrepreneurial Political Initiative [EPI] coalition and a group of representatives of the "Renewal" bloc yesterday began the elaboration of a joint action program. Prior to that, speaking at an EPI press conference (the coalition includes such prominent Russian entrepreneurs as Vladimir Vinogradov, Mark Masarskiy, Yuriy Milyukov, and Mikhail Khodorovskiy), coalition coordinator Konstantin Zatulin and a "Renewal" bloc leader, Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, declared that these influential political groups have common interests. Observers note that the proclaimed rapprochement of the entrepreneurs' coalition and representatives of large state enterprises, whose interests are represented in the "Renewal" union by Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, means the recognition by the latter of the liberal-conservative methods of administering economic reforms maintained by business circles.

As Anatoliy Dolgolaptev told KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, "A considerable potential for the practical implementation of economic reforms in Russia now lies precisely in entrepreneurial circles, and it could be substantially higher were it not for the government's inconsistent policy." In this situation the objective interests of state enterprise directors and local administrations are leading them to collaborate with the "entrepreneurs oriented toward the interests of national capital." In Dolgolaptev's opinion, as of now the EPI is the most consistent advocate of such interests. The main area of joint political activity of the coalition and the "Renewal" union will be a search for ways of restoring a strong center on the basis of mutual efforts by the traditionally dominant corps of large state enterprises and the entrepreneurial elite.

Independent commentators note that the intention to collaborate with the entrepreneurs declared by state enterprise directors is contributing to a substantial increase in the reformist potential of the "Renewal" bloc, which is affiliated with Civic Union. At the same time this does not mean a cardinal change in its political concept. This was borne out by Anatoliy Dolgolaptev's statement about "the commitment to reforms, but a categoric rejection of the revolutionary methods of their implementation" (an analogous concept is also being preached by the EPI members). The signs are, however, that the latest initiative of the "Renewal" bloc does not fit into the position of a substantial part of Civic Union, primarily the Rutskoy and the Travkin parties that are increasingly moving toward populism. In this situation these two blocs of Civic Union obviously disagree on fundamental questions, which could result in an actual split between them.

Yakovlev Confident Yeltsin Will Win Referendum

LD0904120093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS— "The nationwide referendum will help society to determine its further way: either to continue democratic reforms or enter a period of obscureness," Aleksandr Yakovlev, chairman of a presidential commission for the rehabilitation of victims of political repressions, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Friday [9 April].

"Despite mistakes and blunders made by the government and the Russian president, the vector of the development has been chosen correctly—that is a way of democracy leading to economic transformations, joining the world community and lessening the international confrontation," Yakovlev said.

He expressed confidence that the Russian president would win the support at the referendum. "As far as I am concerned, I am going to say 'yes' in answer to the first question of the referendum, while the rest of the questions are not as important," he said.

Yakovlev believes that the referendum will be unable to resolve the constitutional crisis, but rather that it will be of moral and social importance. In Yakovlev's opinion, the key to the solution of many problems is early elections of all branches of power since all constituent parts of power bodies were elected in the past epoch. The people themselves should cast aside hysteria, demagogy and put a stake on professionalism," Yakovlev said. [no opening quotation mark as received] He believes that the spring and the fall of 1994 will be the most appropriate time for re-elections.

He expressed his concern about the fact that a number of political forces sharing extreme radical views are pushing society to adopt a new constitution. "There are no necessary political, economic and moral factors for this so far," Yakovlev said. He suggested that in a transitional period adopting a constitutional act would suffice.

He believes that the presidential republic will be the most acceptable form for Russia's development in a transitional period. Afterwards, under conditions of stable multi-party system and civilized ways of the forms of the state development "we might pass over to a multi-party parliament which would form a responsible government," while the president is to act as a guarantor of the constitution and as an arbitrator.

Commenting on a drive launched by separate federations to put an additional question of sovereignty to the referendum, Yakovlev said he does not believe that this might cause Russia's disintegration. Recognizing the inalienable right of the people to self-determination, Yakovlev said he was concerned about the fact that "at times, not quite honest politicians are trying to substitute the idea of national self-determination for separatism which dooms the people to seclusion, isolation and, in the long run, to impoverishment."

Gaydar, Yakovlev on Voting in Referendum

LD1104200993

[Editorial Report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1430 GMT on 11 April carries in its "The Week: Day by Day" program a seven-minute interview with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev and a 2.5-minute interview with Yegor Gaydar, who express their views about some events of the past week and about the situation in the country as a whole.

Asked whether he will take part in the referendum, Gaydar replies: "I can say absolutely honestly that I will go. I will reply 'yes' to the first question. I will reply 'yes' to the fourth question. I will not reply to the second question as I regard it as insulting and I will not reply to the third question as I do not understand its essence if I reply to the first question."

Yakovlev warns listeners against voting with their feet against everything, as that would result in a continuation of the mockery of common sense which has been taking place of late. He agrees with announcer Todysh that the more people take part in the referendum the more convincing will be the victory of one of the sides and the more legitimate will the right given to them to steer Russia by the policy which has won.

Yakovlev says: "I will of course say 'yes' to the first question. The other questions, excuse me, do not interest me. These are a consequence of the first. If the president receives moral support from the people, all the rest will be clear from the moral point of view." He warns that if there is a no reply, that is a step toward civil conflict and is very dangerous.

Shumeyko, Gaydar View Referendum

LD1004131793

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1943 GMT on 9 April carries a 56-minute report on statements by First Vice Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko and former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, at a concert entitled "Day of Trust," given by cultural figures in support of the governments' reforms. Their statements are in response to questions by EKHO MOSKVIY correspondent Kseniya Larina. The date and place of the concert is not given.

Larina asks: "In your opinion, gentlemen, what does the referendum mean for us today?" She first directs the question to Shumeyko.

Shumeyko replies: "Well, first, making use of the opportunity, I would like to say that I feel like an orphan in this place. Like an orphan who knew deep in his heart that somewhere he does have a family home, somewhere he does have such beautiful, such good parents, and at last he gets to this home. You understand my feelings. Enormous thanks to you for being there, for having such a warm home, for the fact that this really is a family and this really is so.

"But, as far as the questions which are posed in the referendum are concerned: You know them. There are four questions. The first question: Do we trust the president? Well, it is clear that this question does not have a profound meaning, because we have already elected our president once and no one doubted whether we trusted him or not when we elected him. But this question stands; it is forced to stand. This triad of congresses has led to this question, early elections of deputies. Each deputy taken separately, each people's deputy is a decent person and you can come to agreement and talk with each separately with the exception of certain completely odious figures.

"But when they gather together at the Congress and what ensues...[pauses] Today we need a completely different parliament, a compact one, a professional one. You are absolutely right. A professional parliament. I will say to you that if we all together—the deputies and the government and the presidential structures—coordinated our work, we would be in a completely different dimension today. I am simply talking to you as a person who day in day out is involved, conversant with these facts and figures following this, that we would have gone a lot further if we had worked together. That is, today, we would not have been wasting our nerves and health on fighting between ourselves. Well, I think that then there would have to be a lot of such homes like yours, but this is the one and only one. Since it is the one and only, once more, good health, all the very best, thank you, for gathering us here."

Larina then asks Gaydar: "What do you think, will the referendum give us anything or not?"

Gaydar replies: "Dear friends, of course, the referendum is an almost senseless thing. We in fact know all the answers. We know what the people think about the president and it is no secret to anyone what the people think about the Congress and the people's deputies. You could discuss at length about whether it would have been possible to somehow do things differently. Perhaps the referendum is not needed. You could adduce sensible juridical grounds for this. None of this bears any relation to that real political situation, to our life and how it will be built after the referendum. Life is extremely simple.

"Nonetheless, forgetting all these juridical niceties and nuances, we either demonstrate very clearly and convincingly that we are firmly behind the new Russia and its future, or those people who governed Russia for 75 years will again govern us and just as before we will humbly look at our sclerotic, depressingly repulsive leaders, lighting up the whole world, and just think that this time this is not our legacy from our fathers and grandfathers and so forth, but that we ourselves have done this by our own lack of organization, passivity, and the fact that we are tired of politics, the fact that we are fed up with everything and the fact that at the critical moment we suddenly turned out to be incapable of gathering and being together. Thank you."

Poltoranin Comments on Yeltsin, Referendum

LD1004094793

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1935 GMT on 9 April broadcasts the "Politburo" program, which includes a 10-minute recorded interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center, by an unidentified announcer.

The announcer starts the interview by saying that since the Politburo program constantly deals with corruption, the first question will be about corruption. Asked what exactly President Yeltsin does to fight corruption, Poltoranin stresses that the president does many things; what is more, he plans to do even more. One of the steps proposed by the president is that a checkup be carried out of all foreign bank accounts of all members of the presidential team, including the president himself, of all members of the government and of all Russian people's deputies. However, Poltoranin stresses, this idea, like many other of the president's proposals, has encountered resistance from certain people and nothing has been done.

The announcer then quotes Khasbulatov at today's meeting of soviets of all levels as saying that the political and economic crisis in the country is deepening due to the fact that the president seeks authoritarian power. Mikhail Poltoranin stresses that he agrees with Khasbulatov only on one point—that the crisis is deepening. "It is Khasbulatov who seeks authoritarian power. The president wants only one thing at present—to prevent the destruction of the executive power since the executive power, the entire structure of the presidential power, of executive power is the backbone of Russia, like the spine in a human body," Poltaranin stresses. Asked whether it is possible for Yeltsin and Khasbulatov to come to an agreement behind the scenes, Poltoranin says that the president is "a very sincere, decent, and open person. He may try and look for an agreement but never behind the scenes. He may seek agreement only when it serves Russia's interests, but not just the interests of some two people."

The announcer expresses the view that the upcoming referendum will not change people's lives much. Poltoranin disagrees, saying that "if the president loses, we will simply end up with total disorder—we will not just go back to the old system, but we will end up with a breakup of Russia. If the president is to win—and I hope he does... [Poltaranin pauses] Therefore I would like to stress that the only way for democracy and freedom to win is to answer three times yes and one time no. No to the third question on early elections of the president, because as soon as the population cast a vote on early elections of the president along with the re-election of the Congress of People's Deputies, the congress will convene and fix elections for this fall or summer, and they themselves will stay for another two years. I can only say that victory for the president means victory for Russia."

Asked about the well-being of the Federal Information Center after two attempts to ban it, Poltoranin says that the Federal Information Center still exists, contrary to claims by some deputies. He adds: "Yes, it is true, the Congress instructed the president to abolish the Federal Information Center, and the president is currently thinking what to do about the center. But we are still functioning, and I hope will continue to do so."

In conclusion, Poltoranin says: "As long as Yeltsin continues to act in Russia's interests, as he is doing at present, then no matter what mistakes he makes, I will always support him."

Deputy Minister on Servicemen's Role in Referendum

LD1004040293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Dmitriy Beketov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Will servicemen take part in the all-Russia referendum on 25 April? This was one of the main questions at a news conference by Deputy Defense Minister Valeriy Mironov for representatives of the media today.

[Mironov] All servicemen of the Armed Forces are free and nobody will prevent them from participating in the referendum. Some of them will do it at open polling stations and others at closed polling stations; this concerns the servicemen of active service in the units and sub-units deployed in the so-called foreign countries, formerly part of the USSR for well-known reasons.

[Beketov] As for admitting representatives of various public and political organizations to the closed polling stations, General Mironov was categorical—they will not have this opportunity. I can only add that, because of a special status of the Black Sea Fleet, their naval personnel will not be able to take part in the referendum.

People's Deputies Give Views on Referendum

LD1104092593

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1510 GMT on 10 April, in the "Parliamentary Herald" program, carries a 15-minute interview with Russian People's Deputies Igor Zbronzhko, Viktor Utkin, and Ivan Koptenko by Russian People's Deputy Sergey Nosovets.

Nosovets asks the deputies what Yeltsin's opposition expects from the referendum. Zbronzhko says that for the opposition it is primarily a question of gaining absolute power, which means getting rid of the president, even though they have no idea how to solve Russia's crisis. He believes that deputies have lost touch with their constituents.

Utkin, who is also president of the Independent Miners Trade Union, thinks that the Communists who were still in power in several oblasts have a lot to lose if people show they have confidence in Yeltsin. He said that miners, on the whole, want more decisive action and consistency from Yeltsin. The trade union is to meet next Tuesday or Wednesday in the Kuzbass region and will appeal to the president for order, freedom, and property.

Koptenko advocates support for the present government and says that all power should be tranferred to it and to the president. He argues that the privatization of property should be promoted. He believes that deputies do not think about the economy but simply about power.

Party Representatives on Consensus, Referendum

LD1104173493

[Editorial report] Moscow Ostankino Television Firsy Channel network in Russian at 1120 GMT on 11 April carries a 40-minute "Live Dialogue" program on the political and economic reform in the Russian Federation and on the upcoming referendum. The program is moderated by Andrey Skryabin. Taking part are Andrey Golovin, coordinator of the Supreme Soviet's Smena-Novaya Politika faction; Ilya Zaslavskiy, co-chairman of the council of representatives of the Democratic Russia movement; and Aleksandr Tikhonov, chairman of the Consolidation Party.

Asked what social groups the guests represented, Ilya Zaslavskiy of Democratic Russia says that his constituency consists of people who work very hard and are oriented toward the market economy. Smena-Novaya Politika Spokesman Golovin said that potentially, in the future, this party will be a mouthpiece of the middle class, when this emerges. The Consolidation Party, represented by Aleksandr Tikhonov, was formed in 1992. Its main goal is to reach consensus in order to foster Russia's development. The party currently has 40 chapters nationwide.

Asked to what extent reformist goals meet the interests of the population, all three participants point out that reforms meet the interests of all population groups except for stern supporters of the old communist structure. There are certain conflicts in the tactical field, but strategically the majority want reforms.

Asked about the ability of their parties to compromise, all three agree that compromises are badly needed. However, consensus should not be total, precise areas of consensus should be defined and targeted.

After a lengthy discussion on the definition of the concept of consensus, the participants move on to debate the state of the economy. What can be done to the Russian economy today in real terms? Convergence of the best of both worlds, socialist and capitalist, seems to be the most obvious answer, maintains Aleksandr Tikhonov, whereas Andrey Golovin believes that

nothing can be done today because the government has lost touch with reality and lost control over the country. He claims that the maintenance of presidential structures costs the taxpayer more than the Supreme Soviet. First the government must become operative, and then we will talk, Golovein says. Ilya Zaslavskiy supports cutting the state sector and expanding the private sector; thus the costs of the current state administration system will be curtailed.

In conclusion, the discussion moves on to the referendum. The Consolidation Party, not underestimating the referendum as a channel for expressing the will of the people, is in principle against referenda, since it is too much of a shock for Russia. Ilya Zaslavskiy takes exception to soviets, and believes that the referendum would not be able to cut the Gordian knot unless the congress relinquishes some of its powers, which is rather unlikely. Andrey Golovin defends the congress and maintains that powers are clearly divided at the local level, but there is still confusion at the top. However, the three participants admit that they do not have a clear-cut idea of any alternative to the current power structure, which would be feasible today.

Free Democratic Party Against Reelection of President

LD1104143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dzhon Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 11 TASS—Of the four questions set for the referendum, the members of the St. Petersburg organisation of the Free Democratic Party of Russia intend to say "yes" to three questions but say "no" to the question about the re-electing of the Russian president, according to a resolution of the eighth regional conference of this party held here today.

Marina Salye, co-chairman of the Free Democratic Party of Russia and Russian people's deputy, made a report "the political situation in Russia and the referendum". She said the institution of presidential power is now the only guarantor of the development of a democratic process in Russia. "The omnipotent Congress of People's Deputies is a consequence of the 1917 Bolshevist coup. Our country is now facing the choice—either the development of democracy or the communist-fascist revanche," the leader of the party believes.

The participants of the conference stressed the great importance of the convocation of a constituent assembly which is the only way out of the current crisis of power. The speakers were unanimous in the viewpoint that the slogan "all power to soviets!" must be eliminated from the country's life, the division of authorities is necessary. The movement forward is impossible without adopting a new constitution by the constituent assembly. This is particularly important as at present nationalist fronts and parties are seeking to take power, Marina Salye believes.

Expressing support to the Russian president at the most responsible period in history of the motherland, the participants of the conference stressed at the same time that the Free Democratic Party of Russia expects that Boris Yeltsin will convoke a constituent assembly in the future, introduce the universal declaration of human rights, the private ownership of land and turn the country into a state with real but not "transparent" borders and so on.

Besides, the participants of the conference spoke against forming a coalition government, and approved a proposal to conduct an opinion poll amongst citizens of St. Petersburg on April 25 on whether they support the idea of convening a constituent assembly.

Left-Wing Groups Demand TV Airtime for Referendum

LD1104171993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Boris Koltsov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Strangely enough, we have already got used to seeing upholders of the law arriving in trucks near the Ostankino television center. Extra protection is being brought in as various political groups begin the latest struggle for airtime on our channel.

[Koltsov] It is good to know that the militia are prepared this time for possible events around the television center. However, everything is quiet here so far. A rally organized by Working Russia and the Russian Communist Workers' Party is taking place near the main entrance to the All-Russian Exhibition Center, and it looks as if they do not intend to come to the television center.

The aim of those gathered near the former All-Union Exhibition of Economic Achievements is to protest at the fact that they are not being given airtime on central television as the referendum approaches. The organizers of the present rally want the help of central television to broadcast a live relay of a national veche [popular assembly]. According to Viktor Anpilov, this action is to take place in Red Square on 17 April.

Yeltsin Likely To Fall 3-4% Short in Referendum

PM0904194193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Sedov of the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion: "Referendum: Main Struggle Will Develop Over Second Question"]

[Text] I am not going to take up readers' time with figures and percentages in today's review of data from the most recent public opinion polls concerning the referendum. There is no need to do this. Since, on the basis of the multitude of polls carried out during and after the Ninth Congress, the results of three of the

questions in the referendum are predictable with absolute accuracy. Only one question—that put by the president about whether people have confidence in him—really remains in question, and that only if the vote is counted according to the rules which the Congress laid down.

So, the polls unequivocally show that we will get two "no" votes and one "yes" to the Congress' questions. "No" to the socioeconomic policy implemented by the president and government since 1992 (the result which its cunning authors knew they could expect). "No" to early presidential elections (a result which these same authors did not expect). And "yes" to early elections of people's deputies (a result which even specialists did not expect, for just a week ago, before the Congress ended, a result of 50 percent seemed unattainable).

As far as the question of confidence in the president is concerned, a miracle is possible here and Yeltsin may, in spite of all the forecasts, manage to clear the 50 percent mark of the total number of registered voters. However, it is most likely that he will miss this by 3-4 percent, mainly due to the more negative attitude toward him of the rural population—53 percent of the total number of voters in Russia's cities are ready to vote for the president (in Moscow the figure is 62 percent).

What are we going to have as a result of this combination of results? The country will get a president with a convincingly confirmed effective mandate from the people, but formally speaking a president who, according to Congress' decree, does not possess such a mandate, and a president who the voters do not want to have to face early elections but whose socioeconomic policy they do not approve.

On the other hand, we will be left for an indefinite period—until the early elections are held—with a Congress and Supreme Soviet which have in fact lost their legitimacy by dint of a referendum which has shown that they do not enjoy the people's confidence, but which legally speaking retain their unlimited sovereignty for the whole of the period up to the elections.

Even the imagination of the most sophisticated political scientist could not even dream of what new opportunities for confrontation lie in this bundle of absurdities, and how much mischief our unruly deputies will attempt to do in the months left before their demise.

Nevertheless, it is possible to predict that the main focus of the struggle will be the reformist policies of the president and government. It is on this front, defined by Russians' negative reply to the second question in the referendum, that the main battle will unfold. God grant that the movement away from radical reform can stop at something like Ye. Saburov's "Economic Solidarity" program and is prevented from sliding into the suicidal quagmire of Abalkin's "stabilization" program.

But another scenario is also possible. It is possible that the president, having seen for himself that not only the people who took part in the rally on Vasilyevskiy Spusk, but more or less half the Russian people are behind him while the Congress can hardly muster 15 percent to support it, will finally decide to really "use his power" and stop the ruinous activities of the "people's elected representatives," in whom the people have lost faith. Of course, this course of action entails considerable risk, in particular, in connection with the inevitable increase in the influence over the country's fate exerted by strong-arm structures. But I think that in this developing and intensifying absurd situation, this will prove to be best possible way out.

Press Aide Denies Chubays' Rumored Resignation

MK1004100693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In Brief"]

[Text] Moscow—Anatoliy Chubays is not going to resign, his aide Arkadiy Yevstafyev stated.

According to Arkadiy Yevstafyev, press aide to Anatoliy Chubays, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, "some sources insist" that A. Chubays tendered his resignation but that it had not been accepted. Arkadiy Yevstafyev expressed indignation at this information, calling it "drivel." Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, evaded answering a question on 8 April from POSTFACTUM on A. Chubays' possible resignation, saying that Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin would be discussing with President Boris Yeltsin personnel questions of the Russian Government. In particular, according to V. Shumeyko, new appointments will be considered for the posts of minister of the economy and minister of justice.

Stepankov: 'May Soon Cease To Be' General Prosecutor

MK0904115693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 1

[Mikhail Gurevich report: "Forecasts According to Stepankov. Actors Wonder What Is Inside General Prosecutor's Safe"]

[Text] On the evening of 7 April, Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov was a guest at the Central House of Movie Artists.

The Central House of Movie Artists has upheld its persistent democratic reputation: Remarks by Valentin Georgiyevich, who recently blew his cover by appearing among anti-Yeltsinites (Rutskoy-Zorkin-Voronin) on a late night television program, have not always found, to put it mildly, an enthusiastic response. The audience was openly booing as it demanded that the title of the evening gathering "Direct Question—Direct Answer" be observed. The host, Viktor Merezhko, even had to pacify

the attendees: "Come on, after all, it is not a hooligan that we are having as our guest here!"

Not all complaints were diverted to other quarters, though (the others include the Justice Ministry, the courts, parliament, and even MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS). There was still something to hear for those who gathered in the hall. About Dudayev: "He came to power propped up by the bayonets of bandits. I do not consider him a lawfully elected president, he has no moral right to assess the role of Khasbulatov and others on behalf of the entire Chechen population." A forecast for the upcoming trial of members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency: "In the first two or three days there will be an avalanche of petitions setting down [legal] challenges. If the court withstands this pressure and proceeds to review this case on the merits of the charges brought, initiating not political, but criminal court proceedings, the trial is likely to slow down because of illnesses and other snags." Stepankov acknowledged that the prosecutor's office made a mistake by treating this case as a criminal one. On "the Belovezhskaya Forest conspiracy:" "If the creation of the CIS is treason, then all the deputies who ratified those agreements are to blame, including those who have filed a petition to that effect with the Constitutional Court."

Valentin Georgiyevich made yet another forecast: "Maybe I will soon cease to be general prosecutor. I will not claim, as many people do, that I have some sensational reports hidden somewhere. If I have a bottle of cognac in my safe, what else do I need?" After that remark many popular movie stars said they planned to put their names down for a meeting with the general prosecutor.

Winding up the meeting, Mr. Stepankov followed tradition by calling politics "a dirty business" and proceeded to autograph his book, "The Kremlin Conspiracy." They say he wrote on one of the books, "Till we meet again," instead of, "Fond memories of the meeting."

Military Issues

Minister Barannikov Rejects Use of Political Force

MK1004135293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" interview with Security Minister Viktor Barannikov by Petr Andreyev; place and date not given: "Viktor Barannikov: 'Security Organs Will Never Again Be Instrument of Political Force'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Viktor Barannikov is a Russian, 52, born in Maritime Kray. He has served in the Moscow region, Tatarstan, the Urals, and Azerbaijan. He has risen from student to Russian internal affairs minister without skipping a single rung on the career ladder. Since 1992 he has been Russian Federation security minister. He is the only cabinet member not to have given an interview to a single foreign or domestic publication during this time.

[Andreyev] Viktor Pavlovich, you would indeed seem to be avoiding meetings with journalists...

[Barannikov] It is just that I believe that everyone should stick to their job. We have a press service, and it is fully qualified to bring essential information to society's notice via newspapers and television. Of course, it is the Russian Security Ministry's position and not the viewpoint of individual leaders and staffers.

[Andreyev] Do you think that this degree of openness is adequate?

[Barannikov] I am sure that today the Russian Security Ministry is the most open special service in the world intelligence community. I think that the hundreds of unprejudiced domestic and foreign journalists, party leaders, and people's deputies, who have attended the 20 or so briefings and news conferences have seen this for themselves, but let me observe that any openness has its limit, beyond which a threat to state interests and personal rights arises. We are still a special service. And our operational archives are not a public library.

[Andreyev] Nevertheless you have broken your own rule today.

[Barannikov] Rules are irrelevant here. When I was in Beijing, I promised your newspaper's correspondent that I would talk about certain problems and myths surrounding the Security Ministry. Only to help ensure Russia's state security, so that the Security Ministry's role and place in society and the system of state institutions would be correctly understood by readers.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] ...In 1992 Viktor Barannikov toured 32 regions. He personally visited sea border guard combined units and border troops subunit posts from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea. He went out to the "hot spots": North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Abkhazia, Moldova, Tajikistan... According to eyewitness testimony he has enormous capacity for work and physical endurance. [note ends]

[Andreyev] What is your system—"part of the people," "the party's combat detachment?" Among both ultrademocrats and ultrapatriots the prevailing feeling toward state security is one of distrust and wariness... I confess I was surprised when you risked heading a department that was being put under very severe media, social, and worldwide pressure. What impelled you? Could you have declined?

[Barannikov] Could I have declined? Of course. But I was impelled by the need (as a professional I felt this keenly!) to save one of the leading institutions which ensure Russia's statehood from further disintegration. I clearly understood that "perestroyka romanticism" and the euphoria of being freed from totalitarianism could bring in their wake not only positive, but also objectively destructive processes. The normal, bloodless evolution

of a state security system within a system of democratic transformations is one thing. Its complete destruction is another. Two things were needed here. First, a considered political decision by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin. And second, the elaboration of a new state security doctrine. I believe that the Russian leadership demonstrated state wisdom in this respect. But it took a year for these two essential ingredients to be synthesized, and Russia acquired a fundamentally new state institution. Border troops—a most important link in an integral state security system—were returned to this institution, albeit after six months.

So, what is Russia's security system in general terms? On one hand it is an institution for protecting the state's integrity, defense capability, and sovereignty. On the other it is an institution for protecting the individual from encroachments on his constitutional rights and freedoms. In sum it is the protection of Russia's state and nationwide interests.

[Andreyev] Protection from what?

[Barannikov] Nowadays we do not regard particular countries as enemies, especially not their people. Our enemies are the specific special services engaging in unlawful activity on our country's territory, those carrying out intelligence, sabotage, or subversive activity against Russia and Russians, and organized criminal formations, especially those of a terrorist persuasion.

[Andreyev] And from without?

[Barannikov] Only planning goes on from without. We are talking about actions here, on Russian soil. We, Russia's state security, have mechanisms to prevent and avert such actions.

[Andreyev] Did the detaching of the Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] not affect their effectiveness?

[Barannikov] I would put the question differently: How effective is our collaboration with the FIS. It is bringing its own results now. It does not preclude joint measures within the framework of the laws on the federal state security organs and the Foreign Intelligence Service. Let me observe that analogies with the well-known "Mueller-Schellenberg" mutual relations regarding Russia's special characteristics are meaningless and therefore irrelevant. [Reference to the dispute resulting from the Moldovan Government subordinating military counterintelligence to the Moldovan National Security Ministry. The two services were "jokingly dubbed" Mueller and Schellenberg.]

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] In 1992 the Russian Federation Security Ministry discovered 12 people engaged in espionage for the benefit of foreign states. [note ends]

[Andreyev] At the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies you spoke fairly strongly about special services' stepping up their activities against Russia. At an all-Russia conference devoted to the fight against organized crime the special services' list of interests was lengthened—to the extent of entering criminal structures. To what do you attribute this multifaceted stepping up of activities by foreign intelligence services?

[Barannikov] Your question allows me to correct somewhat the arbitrary interpretation of my speeches by a number of newspaper journalists. I was talking about close interest in the entire conflicting political spectrum, including in leaders of shady structures. This is the professional interest of any special service, because the conclusions about the political situation in a particular country can be numerous. Especially if we are talking about Russia, where a real threat to authority from organized crime has arisen. It is a fact which Western analysts are compelled to evaluate.

Next: Objectively there are three reasons for special services' special interest in Russia. First: We are a nuclear superpower. Second: We possess enormous scientific and technical and intellectual potential, which some people would like to tap and utilize advantageously for their own ends. Third: We are rich in raw materials. And another significant factor: certain trends concerning the destabilization of authority. Some people would like to stimulate this process. After all, something you have to ask for from the strong can be bought more cheaply from the weak.

Add to this the indisputable fact of the "billeting" of branches of a number of special services on the territories of certain former USSR republics and "socialist camp countries."

[Andreyev] Evidently it was necessary to block in your forces to some extent. Could you outline your vision of counterintelligence activity?

[Barannikov] Substantial changes are taking place in the counterintelligence service's activity. The main one is that it must operate sufficiently effectively, implementing measures aimed at stopping espionage and other unlawful activity as early as the INITIAL STAGE. The associated task is to neutralize foreign intelligence officers and their agent networks on Russian territory.

[Andreyev] Would you entertain the notion that in the long term this intelligence activity constitutes a real threat to Russia? And in general: What and who is currently threatening us to a greater extent—an external enemy or our internal processes?

[Barannikov] Any intelligence activity causes a certain amount of harm to any state, but I do not think that the fantastic idea of a war with Russia could now enter the heads of major world-level politicians or state leaders. We are a sufficiently powerful and battleworthy great power, but in politics not everything is as easy as might appear at first glance. It depends both on modernizing defense technologies and a surplus or shortage of raw material and human resources, on unions arising and

disintegrating, on intellectual explosions in science... I think that this is a separate conversation. As for domestic problems...

[Andreyev] I mean separatism, the possibility of Russia's splitting up, interethnic conflicts, and, of course, corruption.

[Barannikov] You forgot terrorism. If you were aware of operational information concerning the prevention of terrorist acts, you would put this problem in first place.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] ...In the first quarter of 1993, 60 terrorist incidents were recorded on Russian territory. In the past two years there have been 44 attempted airplane hijackings. [note ends]

But these problems should be discussed, without taking them out of the context of the general problems of statehood. I classify these as an indisputably obsolete legislative base, legal and moral nihilism, and militant separatism.

Of course, the psychology of Russians themselves requires rethinking. Grandfathers and fathers, having created a powerful missile and nuclear shield, have long protected us from global external threats. The internal instability is on our generation's conscience. The whole point is that we do not have enough experience in solving political, economic, and social problems by democratic methods. Unfortunately, we are still programmed for simplified decisions involving force. We now understand, however, that they lead only to a dead end. A most complex historical and philosophical problem...

[Andreyev] But fighting corruption does not require such a philosophical approach.

[Barannikov] I agree, but it does require clearly framed laws and responsibility commensurate with the processes taking place.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] ...During the "Tral" operation carried out by the Russian Federation Security Ministry jointly with the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and customs, the illegal export of around 2 million tonnes of oil and tens of thousands of tonnes of metals was prevented. Around 300 criminal cases were brought. According to Russian Federation Security Ministry information, the mass licensing of the export of mineral fertilizers, strategic raw materials, and defense technologies was terminated and the mass exodus abroad of scientists with secret information was prevented. [note ends]

[Andreyev] Is corruption behind each of these cases?

[Barannikov] Corruption is a multifaceted phenomenon that affects the spheres of criminal, civil, labor, administrative, and, if you like, even family and other legislation. The summit of corruption is bribery in the organs of power and administration, but this part of the phenomenon can be weeded out only with the assistance of the laws on fighting corruption and on state service. A state official must know his service's rights, obligations, and prohibitions. For example, I would think it highly advisable to carry out appropriate testing on appointment to a post.

[Andreyev] Supposing the whole package of laws you need were adopted. Would the system be operationally efficient? People have already been putting on appreciable pressure.

[Barannikov] Let us clarify. Laws are needed not only by us but by society, if it is striving for democratic self-development. We are professionals, committed to implementing these laws.

As regards operational efficiency, I will not be telling a lie if I say that, despite this pressure to which the system has been subjected, it is operationally efficient and is now operating fairly efficiently. Incidentally, Russian border guards in new areas, sometimes in intolerable conditions, frequently apart from their families, are performing very difficult service by guarding the country's state border and the CIS' external border. For example, an attempt to offer our staffer a multimillion bribe ended in prison for the briber... The freeing of hostages, the prevention of airplane hijackings and terrorist acts, and the detection of organized criminal groups and corrupt officials—surely this is evidence of operational efficiency?

[Andreyev] What is your attitude toward the concept of a nationwide program to fight organized crime?

[Barannikov] I would rather not narrow the problem down so artificially. Of course society needs a nationwide program to fight crime, and within its framework a section providing measures against its organized forms.

But formulating it is not such an easy matter. It does not mean compiling a list of measures, as we have been accustomed to doing in past years. It means comprehensive, coordinated activity between all state institutions and not just between the law-enforcement organs and special services.

An important condition when devising a program is the state's resources for financially supporting it. There is an ample sufficiency of such conditions.

Another thing: A comprehensive program also means a comprehensive legal basis of a fundamentally new nature, designed for the socioeconomic situation in which we find ourselves. We do not intend to flex our muscles in a legal vacuum. Politicians must understand that.

[Andreyev] But you too are participating in the political process. During the previous month your name moved from 25th to 14th place in a 100-place ratings table of politicians who are determining the situation in Russia...

[Barannikov] I am not a professional politician.

[Andreyev] Nevertheless, you participated in the work of congresses and spoke at them. You attended the rally. Not everyone has perceived this unequivocally.

[Barannikov] That is natural, since everyone assesses the situation from his own viewpoint and based on stereotypes. I proceed not from political partiality but from my official duties laid down by law. These provide for certain officials to be provided with all measures of security.

My work at the Congress and my replies to people's deputies' questions also come under a minister's duties. Attempts by some people to lend a political hue to this are another matter. This is on their conscience.

[Andreyev] And yet, inwardly, how do you rate the results of the recent political performances?

[Barannikov] The chief conclusion which society must draw is contained in a simple formula. While I am minister, the security organs will not let themselves be drawn into political games, whoever would like this and however. Still less will they ever again be an instrument of political violence.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] ...Unlike many of his colleagues, Barannikov is not inclined to replace the former makeup of the ministry leadership with his "own cadres." This was the case at the Russian MVD, the USSR MVD, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Security, to which he introduced an extremely small team. Fears that militiamen would join counterintelligence have not been realized. No one has joined a single operational main administration from the MVD. Moreover, given the complete rotation of the top leadership, young professional counterintelligence officers have been promoted to the upper echelon from the periphery and from nonpoliticized operational structures. Nor has the minister of the powerful department moved relatives to Moscow—they all live in remote parts of Russia, his mother being in Surgut, in the north. [note ends]

[Andreyev] Do you maintain contacts with CIS special services?

[Barannikov] Not personal contacts, of course, but the Ministry of Security has concluded bilateral agreements with the majority of the former republics of the USSR. Relations are normal.

[Andreyev] What about your relations with other countries' special services?

[Barannikov] There are stable professional contacts based on operational necessity. Thanks to this, we have conducted unique operations to confiscate one tonne of cocaine, to arrest an international gang that tried to put $11 million into Russia's currency market, and to secure the joint release of hostages.

[Andreyev] What style of leadership do you prefer?

[Barannikov] A collective style, but definitely with personal responsibility for each staffer.

[Andreyev] What is your attitude to personal criticism?

[Barannikov] It is possible to derive positive experience from everything—which is what I always try to do.

[Andreyev] What about criticism of state security?

[Barannikov] I admit that when it is a question of unfounded, ad hoc, or sometimes even planned "criticism," my reaction is, you see, understandable.... As regards objective criticism, naturally I analyze the nature of our mistakes—although I will not hide the fact that, because of being professionally informed, I usually know what is going on.

[Andreyev] Does the Ministry of Security tail or listen in to politicians and officials?

[Barannikov] These are all fabrications. There is a law which nobody has the right to transgress. There is the Prosecutor's Office, which exercises rigid control functions with regard to us.

[Andreyev] Does the Ministry of Security seriously influence the elaboration of government decisions?

[Barannikov] We are charged with providing the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government with accurate information about all threats to Russia's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. That is all the influence we have.

[Andreyev] How many such documents did you send to bodies last year, for example?

[Barannikov] More than 1,000. Ranging from problems of defense capability and economic security to ecological questions.

[Andreyev] How do members of the government rate this? For their ministries probably also end up in these summaries....

[Barannikov] Of course, we are a very awkward department. Hence the ambivalent reaction, but Russia's interests come above everything else.

[Andreyev] What is your attitude to persons in your department and to certain others who were accused of espionage but were then pardoned?

[Barannikov] I regard them as traitors. They were pardoned and shown an act of humanism, but they were not rehabilitated, since betrayal of the fatherland must not be rehabilitated. It is totally wrong to blasphemously equate them with victims of the repressions.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note] ...In 1992 the minister of security ordered that an inventory be conducted in departmental libraries in order to return to the heirs of

repressed citizens all books that had belonged to them. Dozens of volumes have already found their owners. [Note ends]

[Andreyev] Russia is now at a crossroads. The minister of security is probably filled with the same alarm, hopes, and fears as millions of Russians. Could you formulate this range of feelings in some way?

[Barannikov] There is understanding of one's colossal personal responsibility for the problems that have arisen in Russia and the ways to resolve them. Awareness of the fact that, if they are not resolved, they could turn into an irretrievable disaster. There is, above all, the state's integrity, the development of the economy, the preservation of the gene stock, the revival of our great culture, and the development of the spirituality and the good traditions of the Russians, for which Russia has always been renowned.

I would very much like the democracy that has arisen in our country to become established and not be subjected to corrosion and the influence of individual ambitious political intriguers who have attached themselves to it. I would like real concern for the fatherland's destiny and for nationwide accord among all public forces and social groups to predominate in the doctrines of the parties and movements which are arising, and of their leaders. In the name of the fatherland's future.

...You say that Russia is at a crossroads. No. Russia has already chosen its path. Only not everyone has yet realized this.

Army 'Will Not Stand Idly By' If Constitution Violated

OW0904171093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] KGB General Aleksandr Sterligov, Executive Committee Chairman of the Russian National Sobor (popular assembly), warns that if anyone tries to impose a dictatorship on Russia, "the army will not stand idly by." This applies, he said, in particular, to the introduction of presidential rule.

In an interview with Interfax's Marina Chernukha he said that "the army will act in defense of the law and Constitution against those who try to violate them." It would have done so, he said, had the Russian president followed up on what he said in his appeal to the nation.

According to Sterlogov, the president's entourage had several options of resolving the constitutional crisis, one of them being the military. "In that case we would be compelled to rise in arms," Sterligov emphasized.

He also insisted that an armed conflict with the army's involvement is out of the question in the short term. "Even though there are two officer assemblies, one supporting and the other opposing the president, the officers will not fire at one another," Sterligov said.

He also believes that neutrality of the armed services is guaranteed only as long as the army is manned by conscripts. "Mercenaries would not hesitate to shoot people," he said.

A full account of the interview will be published in an Interfax's Exclusive bulletin.

Yeltsin Pledges Help for Veteran Soldiers

LD1004105793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Aleksey Maresyev, a legendary pilot of the Great Patriotic War, as well as other heads of veteran soldiers' organizations in Russia, had a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin. Their conversation has just ended. Among the issues discussed the most important one was this: There is a need to provide prompt and drastic help to old soldiers, who have deserved the right to decent living.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] One must never think that enough has been done for veteran soldiers. I have this psychological attitude definitely and clearly imprinted on my moral self. One should always think: No, you still owe them more than they you and you must return to the veterans issue again and again. [end recording]

Raises Monthly Minimum Wage

OW1004131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday [10 April] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an executive order under which the minimal wages would amount to 4275 Roubles a month, which equals the minimal retirement benefits.

Talking to the leaders of the All-Russian Veterans Council in the Moscow Kremlin, the President said the state could not ever square its debt with the veterans. The President felt it remained in perennial debt with the veterans.

When he talked to Muscovite at the inauguration of the new telephone lines earlier that day, the President felt that although many were finding life difficult, the Russians saw the need for reform. We had to win the referendum, the President said, otherwise we would suffer a serious setback.

The President approved the creation of one national, rather than a number of unrelated veterans associations. He felt the new association would find more effective ways of protecting the veterans' social interests. (The Council's leaders say the Council brings together 28 mln citizens). The President decided to earmark 1.5 billion

Roubles from either the state budget or presidential reserves, to create new jobs for the veterans and ordered that a draft bill on support of veterans' organizations be prepared.

The President suggested that the government prepare a decree on the 50th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic war. He felt the decree must call for better protection of the veterans' social interests.

The President agreed that the country's financial bodies must improve their operational performance. The veterans complained of delays in the readjustment of their retirement benefits. Yeltsin said that Friday he ordered the head of the Central bank Viktor Geraschenko to put operational bodies under the Bank's control to function 7 days a week. The President said that in the first two months of the uninterrupted schedule the financial bodies busy on public holidays could even receive remuneration from the presidential reserves.

Interview With Commander on Problems in Navy

LD1104143493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0750 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with L.V.Sukhanov, commander of the rocket cruiser "Admiral Ushakov" by unnamed correspondent; from the "Military Review" program]

[Text] On 26 July last year the St. Andrew's flag was hoisted again on the ships of the Russian Navy. But did this become the start another stage in the history of the Russian Fleet?

Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union two years ago, no warship has been built, although the Navy has lost more than 80 submarines alone from its complement. Only 64 percent remains of Russia's shipbuilding capacity and only 34 percent of the necessary ship's repairs are being carried out.

Over 25,000 officers and petty officers in the Navy are without housing. Thousands of skilled and comprehensively trained officers are leaving the ranks of the Navy because of difficult living conditions and the drop in prestige. Young officers today are resigning through the lack of service prospects. One knows that the state budget is splitting at the seams and that there is not enough money even for the most essential things, but will it not be the case that the Navy will be coming up to its 400th anniversary in a sorry state? What needs to be done and done right now?

[Begin Sukhanov recording] If we are speaking specifically, then we need to begin with people. People are the most important element and one needs therefore to start with them. The important thing here in my view is, first, to create the basis for people to serve willingly in the Navy and for them to come into the Navy with hopes and link it to their lives. We shall thereby be able to revive the Navy first and foremost and support subsequent generations of sailors. [end recording]

Economic Issues

Central Bank Plans To Reduce Inflation to 20 Percent

OW1104155493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia has recommended that the cabinet slash budget spendings, stiffen the policy of revenues, and start eliminating inefficient businesses by declaring them bankrupt. A message from the bank to the parliament's speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov stresses that the bank can afford not more than 3 trillion rubles for the government and commercial banks to credit the economy in the second quarter of 1993. Thereby, the growth of centralized credits in the second quarter will amount to 37.5 percent against 54 percent in the first quarter and 105 percent in the fourth quarter of 1992. Bank experts believe the measure will keep the pace of inflation within 20 percent a month in the second quarter of this year.

The parliament plans hearings on fiscal policy Monday with the bank's chairman Viktor Gerashenko to take part.

Meanwhile, the bank has voiced anxiety over plans to boost population incomes and index accounts. "The adoption of rash and inadequately drafted decisions will step up inflationary processes and instead of social support will lead to a further decline in the population's living standards", the bank's message says.

Yeltsin Signs Decree Ensuring Citizens' Rights to Housing

LD1004163393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on measures to ensure the rights of citizens to housing. According to the document, the heads of executive power and the governments of the republics within Russia, the administrations of krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, Moscow, and St. Petersburg are instructed to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the requirements of Russian Federation law, and within a week bring previously published acts into line, and not to permit the preparation and adoption of violations of the law's norms. The presidential decree requires the immediate adoption of measures to repeal the decisions on the sharp, unsystematic increase in rents and payments for communal services which have been published in violation of Russian Federation law and acts of the president and Council of Ministers.

Ministry of Interior Sequesters Pragma Bank Assets

OW0904192293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia (CBR) has announced that the Interior Ministry ordered the sequestering of the assets of the commercial PRAGMA BANK correspondent account in the CBR Head Office in Moscow.

Late in December 1992 over 1.1 Bn [billion] rubles were transferred with counterfeit orders to that account of which the commercial bank issued to its customers about one billion in cash. In January the CBR debited that amount from the PRAGMA BANK account because it regarded the transfer illegal. In February the commercial bank brought a suit on the CBR arguing that debiting is illegal unless a customer, a circuit court or a court of arbitration orders it.

The CBR insists that the PRAGMA BANK issued cash "for a high commission" to fictitious organizations which then vanished with the cash. The Moscow branch of the Interior Ministry had several criminal cases under investigation involving a total of over 3.5 Bn rubles.

In this light the CBR Head Office in Moscow applied for withdrawal of a banking license from the PRAGMA BANK.

Meanwhile, the Moscow court of arbitration made a decision Thursday [8 April] that 3.7 Bn rubles be recovered from the CBR in favor of the PRAGMA BANK and ordered immediate execution of that decision.

The CBR intends to appeal to the higher court of arbitration on the grounds that the Moscow court of arbitration failed to investigate the case properly and handled it "hurriedly."

Shumeyko Sees Improving Economy as Referendum Approaches

MK0904111893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report under "Shumeyko News Conference" rubric: "First Vice Premier Calms Public Opinion"]

[Text] "Industrial production over the past six months has been at a stable level, and there are no grounds for speaking of its catastrophic slump," Vladimir Shumeyko, vice premier of the Russian Government, declared at a briefing yesterday. Independent observers associate these words with the desire of the Cabinet of Ministers to strengthen its position before the April referendum.

Vladimir Shumeyko has been holding regular meetings with journalists since last fall. At practically every briefing the vice premier has announced the end of the slump in industrial production in the country. Last year the volumes of loading and unloading work and electricity consumption indicators were used as the main arguments confirming this thesis. Today, in the opinion of Vladimir Shumeyko, the stabilization of the economic situation in the country is indicated by the substantial lowering of the level of inflation. Thus, he said that inflation in March amounted to 17 percent, or 63 percent of the January level.

The vice premier associates the situation's stabilization primarily with the fact that in 1993 the government succeeded in coordinating with the Central Bank a policy of implementing a relatively tough credit and monetary policy. This is confirmed by the rate of increase in the amount of money in circulation, which stood at 12.8 percent during November-January and fell to 9.9 percent in February.

Independent observers, however, believe that there are political motives, above all, behind such optimistic statements by members of the government. Last year's experience shows that a production slump is the inevitable cost of a reduction in the rate of inflation. At the same time the results of that brief period when the inflationary stimulation of the economy in the second half of last year had a positive effect, which was manifested in a slowing up of the rate of fall in industrial production, and when the more or less balanced credit policy in the first quarter led to a drop in inflation, can be used by the government as a serious argument in support of the president and his economic policy. The rise in the rating of the president and the government in the voters' eyes is all the more important because one of the questions being asked in the April referendum is the question of approval for the economic policy being implemented by the cabinet.

Security Official Discusses Fuel Situation, Problems

LD0904202593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] [Announcer] We have entitled our next report "Passions About Gasoline." It concerns the millions of consumers of oil refinery products.

On the instructions of the Moscow government, the competent bodies have been instructed to examine this situation. This work was coordinated by the Security Directorate for Moscow Oblast and Russia's Security Ministry. Here is Sergey Bogdanov, deputy head of the press service, to tell you about it.

[Bogdanov] The subunits of the Moscow Directorate of the Security Ministry were constantly confronting this problem throughout 1992. Either there was no fuel for agriculture prior to the sowing campaign, or supplies of aviation fuel started to become irregular in the summer. Since we ensure the security of the main Moscow airports, naturally, the fact that citizens were unable to fly anywhere and were walking out onto the airfield represented a danger to themselves, to aviation, and to those

passengers in the aircraft that were in the process of landing. This is why we were forced to deal with this problem.

The situation at the gas pumps was reminiscent of the situation after an anti-alcohol decree. There were many problems. Moreover, in December, there were days when 2,500 tonnes was left in the reserve. The city's normal requirement is 3,500 tonnes of motor fuel, not including heating oil.

[Announcer] Is this per 24 hours?

[Bogdanov] This is per 24 hours. With a normative reserve of 8,500 tonnes, only 2,500 was left, I repeat. Horrifying facts regarding the system were revealed, of course. At the time, by a decision of the Russian Government, oil refinery and oil recovery complex enterprises had been permitted to sell up to 40 percent of their fuel to commercial structures, the pious hope being that the additional money received in this way would be used by the oil complex establishments for their material and technical development.

Here is a specific example: In May 1992 the Progress cooperative bought 28,000 tonnes of petrol from the Moscow oil refinery at a price of one ruble [R] per liter, virtually at the state price without any markup. In October, a situation had arisen where the Moscow production association, Mosnefteprodukt, tells the city: Boys, there is no gasoline. Apart from buying from the commercial establishments, there was no other way out.

By the way, in a number of cases the city was also allowed to buy from commercial establishments. The city authorities were forced to do this. Moscow would grind to a halt tomorrow if there was no gasoline.

Mosnefteprodukt purchased 28,000 tonnes of petrol from the Progress cooperative, but at price of R10 per liter. I think it is clear to our listeners—because of the interrelations that emerged in the course of this operation—that no crime had been committed according to the existing law.

Here is another situation. Some senior officials of state enterprises of the oil refinery complex have created associations with limited responsibility—small enterprises, joint-stock companies—while simultaneously being managers in both. Of course, there is the president's decree on combating corruption in state bodies, but there is no responsibility regarding non-fulfillment of this decree.

In addition, we have received a lot of information on exclusively criminal situations. To put it crudely, holes are being drilled in oil pipelines, and gasoline is being pumped out into cisterns.

For the time being, I am not naming either the figures or the names of the various establishments, because the procuracy is continuing legal investigations. It is possible that a number of criminal cases will arise.

Regional Affairs

Further on Abolishment of Presidency in Mordovia

Guslyannikov Wants Referendum

LD0904120993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Vasiliy Guslyannikov, president of Mordovia, a republic within Russia, wants his people to say whether they trust him or the parliament, just the way President Boris Yeltsin proposed to the nation, according to a statement distributed in Moscow on Friday [9 April].

Guslyannikov's decision was prompted by a resolution of the local parliament cancelling the post of the president in the republic.

He believes the question can be answered during the Russian referendum on April 25.

If over a half of Mordovian voters do not pledge their trust to the president, he will resign. The same should be valid for legislators, according to Guslyannikov.

He added that he will remain in office until the Russian Constitutional Court adopts a ruling on the legality of the decision of the Mordovian Parliament.

Vice-president of the republic Vladimir Narezhnyy told reporters he had submitted a corresponding request to the Constitutional Court and hopes to meet Chief Justice Valeriy Zorkin.

The vice-president said the conflict in his republic emerged between the democratic president and the communist parliament.

He added that the unlawful parliamentary decision can "shock the whole of Russia" and lead to clashes in Mordovia where tensions are high.

Russian democratic forces denounced the decision of the Mordovian Parliament which "clearly shows the wish of soviets of all levels to seize all power in the country" and return to the past, according to an appeal to the people of Mordovia issued by the Committee of Democratic Forces uniting 88 parties, movements, public and cultural organisations.

The committee called on the population of the republic to support their president and restore the presidency.

The people's party of Free Russia, of which vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy is a co-chair, issued a statement in which it says the Mordovian developments are internal affairs of the republic.

The post of the president was instituted by the Mordovian Parliament and all the questions connected with

the existence of the institution are in the authority of the republic, as well as issues of observing the Mordovian Constitution, it said.

Shakhray, Others Comment

OW0904163493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the end of his trip to Saransk, Mordovian capital, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray gave an exclusive interview to Interfax's Boris Zverev. The trip was provoked by the parliament of that republic abolishing the presidency there. Shakhray chairs the State Committee on the National Policy and Federation Affairs.

Shakhray believes that "Mordovia has been turned into a testing ground for the elimination of a strong executive branch, taking over where the Eighth and Ninth Congresses of People's Deputies left off."

The vice premier thinks that the top officials of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet had a decisive hand in the developments there. It provided "a political backing for the scenario" which was carried through "with a strong assist by a combat unit of Russia's deputies .... the Russian Supreme Soviet was directly involved by pledging its support," said the Russian vice premier.

Mordovia was probably the weakest point in the system of regional executive power. "Errors are obvious as is the weakness of the Mordovian president and his cabinet. No attempt was made to strengthen the executive power; instead, advantage was taken of that weakness to stage a coup," Shakhray thinks. His own mission in Saransk was not to protect president Vasiliy Guslyannikov as a person. It was essential to see to it that constitutional procedures of removing the republic's top official from power be applied and to prevent avalanche-like destruction of executive structures.

The interference of Federal authorities in the Mordovian crisis is dictated by the need to avert a replay of similar events elsewhere in the Federation. Shakhray foresees attempts at subverting the executive branch in "at least 10 to 12 territories and regions."

The Federal authorities have responded too late, the vice premier thinks, for signs of a crisis had been visible and this turn of events could be expected. He believes that a strong team of professionals must be sent to the republic shortly to strengthen the executive branch there.

Russia's government, president, and the Constitutional Court must show their resolve to preserve the state structure and unity of the executive system, for otherwise "lawlessness would snowball," Shakhray emphasized.

Commenting on the mechanism which made that decision of the Mordovian legislature possible he said: "The gravest mistake of the local authorities is that for 30 months the same people have been engaged in power struggle. First they introduce presidency to consolidate their own grip to power and then, as the situation changes, they abolish it. They blame the republics government and president for all the problems of the socio-economic reform and settle accounts with them."

IF Note: In the complained filed by the Mordovian president in the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation the elimination of presidency by that republic's legislature is said to destroy unity of the Russian President-headed executive system, to make it impossible for the Mordovian executive authorities to put into effect the Federation's powers in the Mordovian republic within the limits and in the forms provided for by the Russian Federation's Constitution and Federal law. Adoption of this decision without knowledge on the part of Russia's President, the complaint argues, is in flagrant contravention of part two of Article 131-1 of the Constitution and infringes on the status of Russia's President as chief executive.

On the other hand, a statement made by the legal office of the Russian Supreme Soviet argues that any republic integrated in the Russian Federation has the right to determine on its own the structure of its top authorities, meaning that the Mordovian legislature's decision to abolish the republic's presidency was quite legal.

Speaker Ramazan Abdulatipov of the House of Nationalities, a chamber of the Russian legislature, insists that the federal authorities have no right to interfere in the Mordovian situation. He thinks that the crisis there was precipitated by the fact that "the Constitution of that republic was written with certain personalities in mind but the presidency was taken over by somebody else."

The Russian Unity bloc regards the presidential crisis in Mordovia as "start of a backlash," Mikhail Astafyev, a coordinator of that opposition alliance, said at a Moscow news conference Thursday [8 April]. "Presidents of sovereign unities are being shaken down like overripe fruit," he noted with satisfaction.

Astafyev describes the abolition of presidency in Mordovia as a reaction to arbitrary action undertaken by executive structures whereas, he thinks, the president and government have to be accountable to the legislative branch elected by popular vote. He hopes that the Mordovian crisis will trigger similar processes in other republics of the Federation and the Federation itself.

Council of Ministers Chairman Appointed

LD0904173793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1618 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Papeta]

[Text] Saransk, 9 Apr—The Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian SSR today appointed Valeriy Shvetsov to the post of chairman of the new supreme structure of executive power of the republic—the Council of Ministers. Over the last few months, he has occupied the post of first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Before that, he was involved in economic work. He is virtually unknown to the republic's population as a politician.

With the appointment of a chairman of the Council of Ministers, the procedure of abolishing the presidency in Mordovia—begun at the 2 April session of the Supreme Soviet—is completed. A decision of no-confidence in Vasiliy Guslyannikov, president of the Mordovian SSR, and on the abolition of the institution of the presidency in the republic, was adopted there.

The decree of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, which instructed Guslyannikov to continue to carry out the responsibilities of president and leadership of the government, has been ignored by the session. The parliament session has ended its work for 10 days and will convene again to study the makeup of the Council of Ministers, which the new prime minister has been charged with preparing during this time. The situation in the republic is calm.

Shakhray: Constitution Contravened

LD0904201593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1815 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 April—In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today, Sergey Shakhray, deputy chairman of Russia's Council of Ministers, said that the federal bodies of executive power will cooperate only with the legal government and president of Mordovia. He returned from a visit to Saransk on Thursday [8 April]. He pointed out that he made his trip to Mordovia after the Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian SSR on 7 April adopted—in contravention of the current Constitution of Mordovia and the RSFSR Constitution—a law "on abolition of the post of president of the Mordovian SSR and on introducing amendments and addenda to the Constitution/Basic Law of the Mordovian SSR," and also a resolution on the procedure for implementing the given law.

The aforementioned decisions, the vice premier said, are not only in contravention of the constitutional principles of the sovereignty of the people and the division of powers, and of the procedure laid down by the Constitution of the Mordovian SSR for dismissing the president from his post; but they also constitute a breach of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, trespass on the authority of the Russian Federation and encroach on the unity of the system of executive power of the Russian Federation [RF]. The aim of my trip, Sergey Shakhray stressed, was to make the people's deputies of the Supreme Soviet of Mordovia and the entire population of the republic aware of the position of the president of Russia and the Russian Federation government.

This position was clearly laid out in Russia's President Boris Yeltsin decree "on ensuring unity of the system of executive power of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Mordovian SSR," which was read out at the session of the Supreme Soviet of Mordovia on 8 April. The president of Russia resolved that the president of the Mordovian SSR and the government he heads should continue to fulfil their duties until such time as the issue of the constitutionality of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet decisions has been decided in the proper manner. The issue of measures on cooperation between the legal government of Mordovia and the federal bodies of executive power, and on the economic agreement between the RF and the Mordovian SSR were discussed at a sitting of the government of Mordovia and the leaders of the rayon administrations in the republic, Sergey Shakhray noted. Representatives of the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering have already gone to Saransk to work through specific issues relating to the agreement.

Appeal Filed With Constitutional Court

OW0904192793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Narezhny, vice president of Mordovia, told Interfax's correspondent in Moscow Friday [9 April] that he had filed with the Constitutional Court of Russia an appeal of President Vasiliy Guslyannikov to overturn the decision of the Mordovian legislature on abolishing the presidency in that republic which is incorporated in the Russian Federation.

Narezhny noted that "once they abolished the presidential position, the constitutional head of the executive branch, the deputies started forming their own government in Saransk (Mordovian capital) Friday." The agenda of their session includes revival of state planning, price controls, and other anti-market legislation, he said.

The Mordovian vice-president said that "the illegal action of the parliament could lead to street fights, provocations resulting in casualties." He thinks that "it is a crime to incite people to violence in this climate."

In a Moscow Echo radio interview the vice president called for introduction of presidential rule in Mordovia.

Court Not Able To Consider Appeal 'Quickly'

MK1004095893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin report: "President Guslyannikov Was Asked To Leave Parliament Chamber. Valeriy Zorkin Will Not Be Able To Consider Quickly His Appeal to Russian Constitutional Court"]

[Text] On the demand from deputies of the Mordovian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, the republic's president, Vasiliy Guslyannikov, was removed from the chamber where the 14th session was under way. The elected representatives of the people said in justification of this that they had abolished the post of president. The same was in store for Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov, who flew in to Saransk together with Sergey Shakhray, but his status as a people's deputy of the Russian Federation saved him.

That day, Mordovian deputies failed to agree on who will sit on the republic's Constitutional Court. Only one out of five judges required by the republic's Constitution secured the necessary number of votes. Nikolay Biryukov, chairman of the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet, expressed bewilderment at the Center's pressure on people's deputies of the republic.

In a telephone conversation yesterday that Vasiliy Guslyannikov had with Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Guslyannikov asked for the consideration of his appeal about the constitutionality of the Mordovian SSR Supreme Soviet decisions abolishing the institution of presidency to be expedited. Valeriy Zorkin stated his regret about the Mordovian parliament's actions, but, according to the head of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, it was impossible to speed the examination of Guslyannikov's appeal since the court was busy preparing its judgment on decisions made by the Ninth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies.

That same day, Mordovian SSR Vice President Vladimir Narezhnyy flew to Moscow to submit to the Russian Constitutional Court additional materials on the action brought by Guslyannikov. Yesterday the deputies were busy electing new members of the Mordovian SSR Council of Ministers reestablished by them. First deputy head of government Aleksandr Garmashov accepted the offer from the Mordovian parliament to be acting chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers. But it became known from circles close to Mordovia's president that he had reaffirmed his loyalty to Vasiliy Guslyannikov.

Guslyannikov Denounces Supreme Soviet

LD1004191793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Parfenekov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Parfenenkov] As has already been reported, Mordovian President Vasiliy Guslyannikov has been removed from his post by a decision of the republican Supreme Soviet. The people's deputies failed to discuss and take into account a decree issued by Boris Yeltsin which says that the situation that has occurred violates the principles of people's power, the demarcation of authority, and the Russian Federation Constitution. Vasiliy Guslyannikov was denied the chance to speak out today. We are allowing that.

[Begin Guslyannikov recording] The Supreme Soviet of our republic is adopting unconstitutional decisions one after another and is violating all the paragraphs of our constitutions that are in force. I believe that democracy is in danger. The president elected by popular vote in December 1991 is at present under threat of being removed from power by the Supreme Soviet in which neo-Communists and the old-type Communists are sitting. You know them. Of 175 constituencies, 130, where single-candidate elections were held in 1990, have spoken out. Mordovia has now become a testing ground for the attempts by the legislative power to trample the executive power. [end recording]

Shakhray for Reinstatement of President

LD1204082293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with Mordovian President Vasiliy Guslyannikov and Sergey Shakhray, Council of Ministers deputy chairman, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpts] Last week Mordovia's Supreme Soviet discussed the issue of abolishing the post of president of the Mordovian SSR, and it did the deed, too. But how could one fail to take account of the fact that Vasiliy Guslyannikov was elected president by the people of the republic? There has been opposition, almost a mirror image of what happened at the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] Mordovia's Supreme Soviet was in determined mood, and so was the president.

[Guslyannikov] I shall go to my place of work and shall carry out the duties of head of government. If all the issues which are adopted here are unconstitutional, I shall dispute them in the Constitutional Court, and I expect the Constitutional Court will put everything in place.

[Correspondent] Passions started running high at the second day of the Supreme Soviet session. Sergey Shakhray urgently flew in to Saransk and managed to get to the microphone in the hall where the deputies were in session - in contrast to the president, who according to Mordovian law no longer held that post. In an interview for "Itogi," Sergey Shakhray said:

[Shakhray] In accordance with Article 130, Chapter 1 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the president is part of the unified system of executive power of Russia which is headed by the president of the Russian Federation. The president of the Mordovian republic, like that of other republics, is responsible for executing a whole series of powers which are within the competence of Russia as a whole - namely the defense of the sovereignty

and economic interests of the Russian Federation, and the rights of citizens on the territory of Mordovia. The Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian Republic therefore does not have the right to take decisions which destroy the unity of the system of executive power.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Without regard for Boris Yeltsin's decree, which stresses the unconstitutional nature of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet decision, a new head of the republican government has been elected in Saransk - resulting in dual power.

Further on Accident at Tomsk-7 Nuclear Facility

Radiation Higher Than Reported

OW0904171693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moscow branch of the international ecological organization Greenpeace accused Russsia's Ministry of Atomic Energy officials of playing down the gravity of the incident in the closed Siberian township of Tomsk-7 Tuesday [6 April]. In a press release made public in Moscow April 9 Greenpeace says that the Ministry gives "inconsistent and distorting" accounts of the consequences of an explosion in a storage of radioactive substances.

Greenpeace insists that the incident should have been graded four, rather than three as in the official ministry report, in the international index of seven.

Greenpeace demands that the Russian government allow immediate on-site inspection by independent experts in order to determine all the circumstances and consequences of the disaster.

Interfax is told by unofficial but reliable sources that the radioactive contamination of the area around the settlement of Georgievka and the road from Tomsk-7 is in fact several times the official figure.

The same contacts report that several highly dangerous sources of beta-radiation have been spotted in the area.

Officials of the State Committee on Emergencies (SCE) refused to comment on this report.

Meanwhile, the SCE press office reports that a pit has been excavated in Tomsk-7 where snow from the contaminated area is brought for burial. An aerial reconnaissance flight which was carried out jointly with the air defense service checked three groups of clouds at an altitude of three km for 90 minutes. The radiation level in the clouds was found to range from 5 to 7 uR/h [microroentgen/hour], or below the usual.

Outside the contaminated area the level ranged from 5 to 17 uR/h.

According to the SCE, the width of the contaminated area is around six km; the area covers nearly 200 square km north of Tomsk- 7.

Yeltsin Tightens Nuclear Control

LD1004045493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, has bound the government to reinforce control over civil and military nuclear facilities. A decision has been issued in connection with the accident at the chemical combine in the town of Tomsk-7. Boris Yeltsin has bound bodies of executive authority and the media to provide prompt and reliable information on industrial accidents and their consequences.

Accident Site Inspected

LD1004122893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Viktor Vladimirov and Yevgeniy Mekerin, chairmen of the Commissions of the State Committee for Emergency Situations and the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry, examined the circumstances of the breakdown at the Siberian chemical complex in Tomsk-7 on Saturday morning [10 April].

Accompanied by Gennadiy Khandorin, director of the Siberian chemical complex, they inspected the explosion site and all affected areas in the building.

They could not inspect the damaged facility itself because it was buried under structural elements. The power of the explosion and directions of the movement of the blast wave are being calculated, Sergey Gorev, chief specialist of the committee's press service, told ITAR-TASS.

The process personnel began to pump out the radioactive solution that spilled into a steel canyon. The amount of the solution that remained in the damaged facility is to be determined after special measures are taken. The bulk of the solution has supposedly remained inside the damaged tank and canyon. Decontamination operations are in progress at the explosion site.

Specialists Study Aftereffects

LD1004214193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Lenskiy, including report by Rosgidromet Chairman Y. Zybov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Specialists of the Russian Federation State Committee for Emergency Situations have been working today in the area of the accident at the Tomsk radioactive chemical plant.

[Begin recording] [Lenskiy] The first series of samples from the territory covered by the radioactive trail has been analyzed today for plutonium content. The total quantity of the element is inconsiderable and, as a whole, does not pose any danger. Decontamination work is continuing at the center of the accident. The total area of the contaminated land amounts to about 35 square kms. Radiation monitoring posts are operating on the borders with Tomsk Oblast.

[Zybov] Our estimates and calculations, carried out during the night from 6 to 7 April and presented on this map, show that the releases had already settled on land within two to three hours. We have no data on the existence of any other radioactive cloud.

[Lenskiy] According to Rosgidromet [Russian hydrometeorology service], the highest level of radiation today is 28.5 kms from Tomsk in the area of the Tomsk-Samus road. Radiation levels here reach 200 microroentgen per hour, which is almost 20 times higher that the norm. The radioactive trace is at present slowly expanding, but if the snow is not removed from the contaminated area before the active melting of the snowdrifts, then radioactive water from the spring melting of snow will expand the trace area by several times. Meteorologists estimates say that the snowdrifts in Tomsk Oblast will start melting on 22-25 April. [end recording]

Greenpeace Alleges Cover-Up

LD1004204693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2033 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Russian state structures are trying to conceal the real aftermath of the Tomsk-7 plutonium-processing plant, claims a statement of the Greenpeace Council Organization's Moscow office.

Despite accident details, made public by representatives of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering gave extremely contradictory information on its reasons and consequences, says the statement.

"It is clear for us the Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering is the only owner of real information on the accident," said coordinator of Greenpeace anti-nuclear campaigns in Russia Dmitriy Tolmatsky.

In this connection the Greenpeace Moscow office called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to give a just estimation of the aftermath of the Tomsk-7 explosion, as well as demands that the Russian Government immediately start an investigation into reasons and aftermath of the accident with participation of independent nuclear experts.

Emergency Committee Head Interviewed

LD1104220093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Report from Tomsk by correspondent R. Alekseyeva, including recording of remarks by Sergey Shoygu, chairman of Russian State Committee for Emergencies; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Five days have passed since the accident at the chemical combine at Tomsk-7. All this time, authoritative experts, both Moscow and local ones, have been trying to establish the causes and the effects of the accident. The final news conference, given by the heads of city and oblast administrations and members of the state commission, reported that the contaminated area covered an area of 22 by 4 km. The radiation level in the area was 35 microroentgen per hour. To compare, the average level for the whole of Russia is 20 microroentgen per hour. No change in gamma background has occurred.

On this occasion, Tomsk residents were fortunate: At the time of the accident the wind was blowing away from the city. There has been no evacuation, and none is planned. What does cause concern is the mood of panic among the population. The accident has also affected Tomsk's business life. Foreigners, at any rate, have fled the city.

Sergey Shoygu, chairman of Russia's State Committee for Emergencies, was working in the city today.

[Shoygu] There is no threat to the lives and health of the population. It is no longer necessary today to describe the situation as an emergency. As for the enterprise itself, the schedule envisages that construction and restoration work there will be completed by June. As for deactivation work on the territory of the combine itself, it is being carried out on a round-the-clock basis, and I believe that it will soon be completed.

No Plutonium in Fallout

LD1204091393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yakyshev]

[Text] Tomsk, 12 Apr—An analysis of samples taken from various areas in Tomsk Oblast has revealed no plutonium in the fallout that followed the explosion of the apparatus. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from experts who are investigating the causes and consequences of the 6 April accident at the Tomsk-7 radiochemical works. A 800-meter-long stretch of the Tomsk-Samus road is believed to be the most hazardous contaminated area. All the snow has been removed from it and decontamination is drawing to a close.

IAEA Invited To Inspect Site

LD1204112393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronima Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry invited experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit the site of the radioactive accident in the Siberian Tomsk-7 closed city to determine the level of danger there, TASS learned from the press service of the ministry on Monday [12 April].

Russia is not obliged to hold an international expertise as the accident occurred at a military object. The invitation is a goodwill gesture, the press centre said.

Yeltsin Decree Confirms Chelyabinsk Region Head's Powers

LD1004174093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—A decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin of April 9, 1993, confirmed powers of the Chelyabinsk regional administration head.

The decree resolutes the regional administration head shall perform the duties established by the Russian law "on territorial, regional Council of People's Deputies and on territorial, regional administration" and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation, the presidential press service reports.

The decree issuance followed a resolution of the Chelyabinsk Regional Court's Civil Board of April 8. The court canceled a resolution of the local Regional Council on elections of a new regional administration head. The elections scheduled for April 11 were announced illegal, same as resolutions of the District Electoral Commission on registration of candidates to regional administration head.

According to the press service report, Yeltsin instructed the government and other federal executive power bodies to render assistance to the current head of the Chelyabinsk regional administration.

At the same time, the president sent to the Russian Supreme Soviet a draft resolution stating the Chelyabinsk Regional Council's decision on elections of a new regional administration head shall be considered canceled.

Elections Go Ahead Despite Decree

LD1104165393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The fierce political struggle taking place in Russia has already led to the regions paying less and less attention to the decisions of the central authorities. As you know, Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, signed a decree on 9 April confirming the powers of the head of the Chelyabinsk oblast administration. Nevertheless, elections for the head of the Chelyabinsk oblast administration are taking place, ITAR-TASS reports. The head of the oblast soviet press center said that late in the evening after the decree came from Moscow, the smaller soviet examined the decree at its sitting and showed understanding toward it. However, that in no way means canceling the elections, he said.

However, a report which arrived at midday said that the elections are very slack. According to the latest information from the oblast electoral commission, people from the countryside are participating more actively in the elections, while people in the major industrial centers are less active. Some 8.8 percent of electors have voted in Magnitogorsk, a little over 10 percent in Zlatoust, and approximately 15 percent of voters in Chelyabinsk. By 1000 this morning, for various reasons, 12 polling stations had been closed, 10 of them in the oblast center. The oblast electoral commission intervened, and managed to open three of them.

Elections for a new head of oblast administration also began today in Penza oblast. It seems that oblast soviets are building up their own power base in the provinces. Today residents of Bransk oblast are choosing a head of administration, and so are the residents of Krasnoyarsk kray.

Three Candidates Contest Post of Kalmykia President

LD1104061393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0549 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Elista, April 11 (TASS)—The people of Kalmykiya will go to the polls today to elect their first president. Three candidates are running for this post: The former secretary of the Soviet communist party regional committee Vladimir Bambayev, Major- General Valeriy Ochirov and the 30-year-old multimillionaire Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

The candidacy of Farmers' Association President Bambayev was fielded by the Free Party of Kalmykiya and the trade union of workers of peasant, farmers' and small enterprises.

Ilyumzhinov, another candidate for the post of president, promises Kalmykiya's voters to achieve a significant rise in their living standards, to "eliminate the KGB", solve the nationality issue and announce the republic a neutral state.

General Valeriy Ochirov, first deputy commander of the Russian land forces' aviation, pledged to ensure the safety of Kalmykiya which neighbours on turbulent

North Caucasian Republics. The election battle is behind. The poll will show who will become Kalymkiya's first president.

Turnout Over 60 Percent

OW1104154593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to preliminary information, presidential elections in Kalmykia have been held. Interfax's correspondent reports from Kalmykia's capital Elista that by 16:00 Moscow Time [1200 GMT] on Sunday [11 April] 135,000 voters of the 203,000 included in the lists, or 66.24% of the electorate, cast their ballots.

As Interfax learned from the central electoral commission, the highest voter turnout was registered in Gorodovikovsky District populated largely by Russian speakers. The lowest voter turnout was noted in Chernozemelsky District populated largely by ethnic Kalmyks - 57.63%.

In Elista 67.5% of voters cast their ballots by 4 p.m. The polling stations will be closed at 20:00, and the results of elections will be known at about midnight.

There are 3 presidential candidates in Kalmykia, a republic in the south of the Russian Federation whose population makes up 320,000 people. The likeliest winner is a 31-year-old entrepreneur, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov Elected

OW1204101993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1003 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 30-year-old billionaire Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has become Kalmykia's first president following Sunday's [11 April] elections, the chairman of Kalmykia's parliament Ilya Bugdayev told newsmen in Elista on Monday. According to parliamentary figures, Mr. Ilyumzhinov collected over 65 percent of the votes.

On the parliament's behalf, Mr. Bugdayev congratulated Kirsan Ilyumzhinov on his victory and announced that the inauguration ceremony would take place in a few days time. He voiced his support for the President and promised every possible assistance to him.

As the parliament's press-service has reported to Interfax, 82 percent of the electorate took part in the vote.

His main opponent, the air force general Valeriy Ochirov, a hero of the Soviet Union secured, by preliminary results, over 29 percent of the votes. The third candidate Vladimir Bambayev gained less than 2 percent of the votes.

The 30-year-old president of Russia's chamber of businessmen, Mr. Ilyumzhinov declared during the election campaign that if he won, he would try above all to keep the population's living standards from further falling and change the economic situation for the better as soon as possible.

Organization Set Up in Tartarstan To Recall Yeltsin

OW1004155993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the run-up to the referendum of April 25 a public [as received] has been set up in Tartarstan to defend the national constitution and recall President Yeltsin. The committee brings together citizens of Communist and ultra-Russian orientation.

The committee will be campaigning throughout the Tartar republic to insure a high voter turnout in the plebiscite of April 25. It will distribute 100 000 copies of a leaflet which denounces the social and economic policies of the Yeltsin Administration and it is going to canvass labor staffs, schools and residential areas. On the eve of the referendum the committee will hold rallies throughout the republic. It intends to monitor the ballot casting in all the constituencies.

The committee's secretary Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Salij has told an IF [INTERFAX] reporter that the developments in Mordovia signal the successful beginning of a nationwide drive to eliminate the capitalist institute of presidency and return all power to the Soviets. The 29th congress of the Soviet Communist party elected Colonel Salij a member of the political executive committee of the Union of communist organizations.

Colonel Salij feels the decision to eliminate presidency in Mordovia does credit to the Communist faction of the Mordovian parliament and the Mordovian Communist movement as a whole. Nonetheless, he rules out the repetition of the Mordovian developments in Tartarstan. He said 87 percent of the Tartar MP's were former affiliates of the Soviet Communist party and Tartarstan's President was a one-time party functionary. Aleksandr Salij is confident, however, that a new body of Tartar MP's will do what the Mordovian parliament did.

Moscow Mayor: Yeltsin Promises To Cancel Gas Price Hike

OW0904143993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a telephone call to Moscow mayor Juriy Luzhkov promised to sign that very day a decree on cancelling the order of the

Russian Federation price policy commitee on increasing the extra charge on oil-products up to 35%. This charge lead to gas price increasing in many parts of Russia including Moscow. Juriy Luzhkov mentioned the phone call at a press-conference in Moscow. "The charge cancelled, we'll have gas prices in Moscow at a level of March 1, 1993," said the mayor.

Fires Officials Responsible

LD0904174293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin revealed today that a decree is being prepared abolishing an increase in rent and fuel prices.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Many questions have been asked today about the increase in prices for gasoline and rent in Moscow. In reality a misunderstanding has taken place here. There are those who are responsible for this misunderstanding. This is inadmissible. Maybe this problem could be approached, slowly, month by month starting in the second half of the year, but not in one go. That is why the increase in prices will be prohibited by my decree today. As for those who are responsible for the matter—and they are known—they have been fired. [end recording]

Moscow Mayor Cited on Prices

LD1004083893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Interview with Moscow Mayor Yu. M. Luzhkov by correspondent V. Perfilyev—place and date not given—recorded; from the Novosti newscast]

[Text] [Luzhkov] An increase of 35 percent in extra charges on the supply and consumer services is a nonsense in economic terms.

[Perfilyev] People like motorists, for example, most likely have already felt the full force of this conclusion reached by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov at today's meeting with journalists. The mayor stressed that the capital's government has been forced to increase gasoline prices under pressure from Russian executive power.

[Luzhkov] Moscow finds itself in a situation when it has to make this decision and Moscow does not want to make this decision. I had a conversation with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin today. He will make a decision and he will cancel everything connected with the increase of prices for oil products.

[Perfilyev] Journalists also wanted to know whether the rent in the capital would go up.

[Luzkov] I can say that in the first six months of this year the Moscow Government will not make any decision on increasing the rent.

[Announcer] As of this moment we do not have a confirmation that Boris Yeltsin has signed the decrees he mentioned in the morning, but we hope that a serious statement like this will not be words only. Moreover, the state of affairs with regard to prices and in the economy as a whole could prove to be a decisive factor in defining the results of the all-Russia referendum, which Boris Yeltsin spoke about today at a meeting with chief editors of a number of central newspapers and the chairmen of television and radio companies.

Luzhkov Opposes Moscow Mayoral Election During Referendum

OW1004135593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Mayor of Moscow, Yuriy Luzhkov, said a new election of the capital's mayor could not be called without the sanction of the Russian Supreme Court, which would deal with the matter on April 30. Luzhkov told Interfax on Friday [9 April] that, judging by the rulings of the Moscow City Court and the Moscow Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court would hardly give such a sanction.

An electoral commission formed by the Moscow City Council intends to conduct the re-election of the mayor within the framework of the national referendum of April 25, which Luzhkov regards as a violation of the resolution on the referendum passed by the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies. He said the law enforcement bodies would be instructed to take measures to prevent any offenses during the referendum.

Moscow Mayor To Allow Rally in Support of Yeltsin

OW1204103393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In response to an initiative put forward by a group of citizens to organize a 140,000-strong rally from the Triumfalnaya square through Tverskaya street, Manezh, and Staraya ploshchad, Moskvoretskaya Naberezhnaya to Vasiliyevskiy Spusk of Red Square, the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov gave the go-ahead for the march to be conducted at 17:30 [1330 GMT] on April 21.

The request signed, in particular, by People's Deputies Lev Ponomarev, Roman Miroshnik, and Aleksandr Pashutin, says that the aim of the rally is "to conduct an agitation campaign in preparation of the nation-wide voting scheduled for April 25." The Moscow Mayor also allowed to conduct a 100,000-strong meeting-concert from 18:45 till 22:00 [1445 to 1800 GMT] on the Vasiliyevskiy Spusk; the traffic will be stopped during this period of time.

In addition, a group of citizens has forwarded a request to Moscow City Hall asking to conduct a meeting with the participation of people's deputies of all levels on

April 15 near the cinema Komsomolets (Dmitrovskoe avenue, 49). The aim of the meeting is to express protest against facts of violation of the Russian Federation's Constitution, the organizers say.

Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has given permission to conduct this meeting from 18:00 till 20:00 [1400 to 1600 GMT] on April 15 near the cinema Komsomolets, the number of participants should not exceed 1000 people.

Yeltsin Decree Reorganizes St. Petersburg TV

LD0904143193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 9 April—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today issued a decree on "Peterburg-Channel 5," the state TV and radio company. The decree reorganizes this company and disbands the Federal TV and Radio Broadcasting Service "Rossiya," from which the "St. Petersburg" Directorate and "RIA-TV" are being siphoned off. It also closes down the St. Petersburg State TV and Radio Company and the Russian State TV and Radio Company "Peterburg."

According to the presidential press service, the state TV and radio company "Peterburg-Channel 5" is being granted the status of an inter-regional TV and radio company.

The decree comes into force from the moment of its publication, when the presidential decree on the Federal TV and Radio Broadcasting Service "Rossiya" of 17 October 1992 will cease to be valid.

St. Petersburg Mayor Holds News Conference 9 Apr

Urges 'Yes' Votes on Referendum

LD0904201293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1151 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Zolotareva]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 9 Apr—St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak believes it is necessary to answer "yes" to all four questions on the referendum. At a meeting with journalists today, he stressed that only positive answers will allow the process of the renewal of all structures of power to be accelerated.

Sobchak, inter alia, said: "Of everything that has happened, I consider the most intelligent and politically positive thing to be the step taken by the president connected with the recognition that both he and the other structures of authority who were elected—in essence, in another state—have lost their mandates, and that these mandates must be renewed in order to continue to maintain power."

The St. Petersburg mayor noted that "it is more than dangerous" to make forecasts regarding the results of the referendum. It remains to hope for the victory of the common sense of the Russian people, who cannot help but be concerned for the future of the country and of their children. With all the attacks on the president, common sense dictates a positive response to the question on confidence in him, since only the president personifies the unity of Russia today.

In Sobchak's opinion, everyone who comes to the referendum must also say "yes" to the question on the early election of deputies, so that historical and political justice is observed.

Blames 'All Branches' of Power for Crisis

OW0904191293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak believes that the questions on the referendum to be held on April 25 should be answered "yes". At a press conference on Friday [9 April] in St. Petersburg he said that answering such will "precipitate the renovation of all power structures."

According to Sobchak, "all branches of power are to blame" for the present political crisis and this "gives us a reason to hold new elections." In his opinion the questions on the referendum are "incompatible," besides, some of them "are not to be submitted to a referendum by law - i.e., socioeconomic questions."

A. Sobchak announced his intention to actively participate in a campaign prior to the referendum "not as an official but as one of the leaders of the Movement for Democratic Reforms."

The St. Petersburg Mayor also reported that he passed to President B. Yeltsin a draft Constitution of Russia which he had prepared together with professor Sergey Alekseyev and other lawyers. In his words, the draft will be considered equally with that of Sergey Shakhray's group and the third "official" one as Sobchak put it.

Comments on Communist Party

OW1004134093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoliy Sobchak, told a news conference on Friday [9 April] that he would be taking measures to prevent the restoration of any district or other committees of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union or the Russian Communist Party [RCP]. "They would all be closed down," he said, for attempts to restore them violated a presidential decree and a Constitutional Court ruling.

He said, however, that he "has nothing against" the setting up of primary territorial organizations by the new communist parties, the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the All-Russia Communist Party (Bolsheviks).

Commenting on the communists' claim to the property of the former CPSU, Sobchak said, "Neither the CPSU nor the RCP can have any legal successors under the law."

Cost of St. Petersburg Referendum Estimated

LD0904221993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0631 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vera Rachkova]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 9 Apr—The cost of holding the nation-wide referendum in St. Petersburg has been estimated at 382,097,000 rubles, the St. Petersburg City Electoral Commission said today. The commission decided to appeal to organizations dealing with the problems of refugees, vagrants, and people living in St. Petersburg without a residence permit to nominate representatives to the electoral commission, which will organize voting by these categories of citizens. The commission pointed out that observers at the referendum should have authorization and an identity card. No documents on membership of a party or public organization need to be produced.

Questions Added to Referendum

OW0904193193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The St Petersburg City Council resolved Friday [9 April] to combine the referendum on April 25 with a public opinion poll on two additional issues.

The first of the additional questions reads: "Do you agree that the new Constitution is to be adopted by a specially convened body—Constitutional Assembly, with mandatory ratification of the Constitution by the majority of the RF [Russian Federation] constituencies—rather than by the Congress of People's Deputies?" The other question posed before the residents of St Petersburg will read: "Do you agree that St Petersburg, as a constituency in the Russian Federation, is to have the same powers as constituent republics of the Russian Federation?"

St. Petersburg Group Calls For Zorkin To Resign

LD1004194493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0803 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuliya Kantor]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 10 Apr—The human rights commission of the St. Petersburg "Memorial" society has sent an open letter to the Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin. The letter says that the leaders of the "Memorial" society consider that the chairman of the Constitutional Court, "by supporting the demagogic scenario of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies, has undermined his own authority once and for all and should resign. In their view, "the Constitutional Court today is unobjective and serves the narrow interests of one group of people which has compromised itself in the past and in the present."

International Affairs

Kiev Denies Report on U.S. Refusal To Receive Kuchma

OW0904134793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Associated Press Agency's reports about the U.S. Administration's refusal to receive Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma are not true, the Ukrainian Cabinet's press secretary Dmitriy Tabachnik told INTERFAX.

On April 8, the ASSOCIATED PRESS circulated reports saying that Ukrainian Prime Minister would not be received in the White House during his visit to the U.S. in April, because the Ukrainian parliament was delaying the ratification of the START-1 Treaty.

Dmitriy Tabachnik announced that the U.S. Congress had invited Kuchma to visit the U.S. in April. However, as the Ukrainian Prime Minister was expected to visit a number of countries at earlier fixed dates and was occupied with other urgent problems, this visit could not take place at the proposed time, of which the American side has been informed.

Tabachnik noted that "we qualify incorrect reports by some of the media as one more manifestation of an irresponsible attitude to Ukraine's internal affairs and as an attempt to put pressure on it. [no closing quotation marks as received] He also said that "one may get the impression that an open campaign is being launched against Ukraine in connection with the problem of nuclear weapons located in its territory." "Such a campaign is extremely counter- productive, and its consequences will be diametrically opposed to those expected by its organizers," said Tabachnik.

Kravchuk Says Ukraine Not 'Nuclear State'

AU1104145893 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 10 Apr 93 p 4

[Wolfgang Vogel report: "Ukraine Is No Nuclear State"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk keeps all options open concerning the issue of nuclear weapons deployed in his country. In an interview with DER STANDARD, the former leader of the Communist Party hinted that Ukraine will not renounce its nuclear arsenal in the near future: "Politics is one thing, but other aspects, including economic, technological, and military ones are to be taken into consideration too."

Kravchuk cited the strong internal pressure he is exposed to. "The Lvov People's Assembly called on the president to declare that Ukraine is a nuclear state! On the other hand, parliament adopted a resolution stating that Ukraine should gradually become nuclear-free and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

In a statement, the Russian Government demanded that Ukraine "transfer its nuclear missiles to Russia where they can be destroyed with Ukraine participation." Kravchuk responded that "certain conditions must be fulfilled first. The security of Ukraine must be ensured, and there must be compensation for the destruction of the weapons—economic and financial aid, for example. Only if these conditions are met can this issue be resolved.

Generally, he characterized the position of his country, which has so far not ratified the START I disarmament treaty, much to America's and Russia's irritation, toward nuclear weapons in the following way: "We are not a nuclear state, because only a state that has a nuclear industry can be a nuclear state. We cannot use the nuclear weapons because we do not produce them. For this reason, we advocate the destruction of nuclear weapons—throughout the world.

Kravchuk pointed out that he simply cannot understand the demand by some Russian deputies for a return of the Crimea to Russia. "The Crimea and Sevastopol became part of Ukraine at a certain point in the past on the basis of laws and without the use of force. One must recognize this territorial integrity, otherwise one embarks directly upon the path of confrontation and violence. We do not want that, because Russia and Ukraine are large countries that should coexist peacefully."

Kravchuk angrily rejected predictions that Russia will swallow Ukraine within a year. "These are Western speculations. I am not that familiar with them because I do not read papers that are published abroad. We seek cooperation with Russia, and we can make progress in this way. We will not be swallowed in one year, but rather will be a free country with an expanding economy and secure borders."

Kostenko Supports Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

OW1104124993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1228 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Ukraine's fundamental position is to liquidate nuclear arms as a whole gradually, not transfer their separate components to somebody else's territory," the chairman of the special parliamentary commission on preparations for ratifying the START-1 treaty, Yuriy Kostenko, told a news conference in Kiev on Saturday [10 April]. The news conference was devoted to the closed session the commission held on Friday.

Kostenko dismissed the allegations that Ukraine is procrastinating the process of ratifying the treaty. The USA considered the treaty for a year and a half, and Russia for seven months, he said.

Kostenko described Washington's and Moscow's policy toward nuclear weapons in Ukraine as "political and economic pressure and blackmail". According to him,

the removal of tactical nuclear weapons and their scrapping under the control of Ukrainian observers cannot satisfy Ukraine, since the destiny of the warheads to be dismantled remains unknown.

If Russia continues to delay the supplies of components for missile complexes, "Ukraine might react adequately," Kostenko said. Most of the types of missiles Russia is armed with are made in Ukraine, he noted.

According to experts, to scrap strategic nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine will cost 2.8 billion dollars. In the meantime to maintain the missiles and keep them in combat readiness will be much cheaper, said Kostenko.

According to Kostenko, Ukraine's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a denuclearized state, as Russia suggests, would create a situation in which "Ukraine will lose both the right to the weaponry itself and the opportunity to influence its fate".

The schemes for processing warheads into fuel for nuclear-power plants have been worked out technically, he said. However he views the time allocated for this process by Russia - 20 years - as unsatisfactory. Therefore Kostenko believes that it is quite possible for Ukraine to reach an agreement on such processing "with third nuclear countries".

Further Comment

LD1004171893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 10 TASS—"Accusations of Ukrainian unwillingness to ratify the START-1 Treaty are groundless. A normal parliamentary discussion of the document to be of great importance for Ukrainian national security and well-being is underway," head of the Ukrainian parliament special deputy commission on START-1 Treaty ratification and republican Minister of the Environment Yuriy Kostenko told a news conference here today.

According to preliminary estimations, nuclear disarmament will cost about three billion U.S. dollars, he said. "Ukraine will have to trace this money, as it cannot count on foreign assistance (the U.S. has promised only 175 million dollars). The preservation of nuclear arms will require much less money than the disarmament.

"Ukraine wants to take on itself obligations it will be able to fulfill. We raise the question of elimination of nuclear arms, and not their transportation from one territory to another. Otherwise, safety of some states will be achieved with decreased safety of others.

"Russia makes a juridically unlawful step, when trying to declare its property the strategic nuclear forces of the former Soviet Union," believes Kostenko.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1453 GMT on 10 April adds: "'Allegations that Ukraine is unwilling to ratify the START I treaty are unfounded. The parliament is carrying out a normal process of studying this key document, which will have major significance for Ukraine's national security, and, most important of all, for its material well-being,' Yuriy Kostenko, environmental protection minister and chairman of a special deputies' commission of Ukraine's Supreme Council for the ratification of the START I treaty, said today at a news conference.

["According to very rough estimates, some $3 billion will be needed to carry out nuclear disarmament, Yuriy Kostenko continued. In his words, 'these funds have to be found somewhere, since we cannot count too much on foreign assistance (for instance, the United States has promised just $175 million for these purposes). At the same time, retaining nuclear weapons requires far less funds than disarmament.'

["'Ukraine wants to take upon itself obligations that it is able to fulfill,' the minister said. 'We raise the question of eliminating nuclear weapons, not transferring them from one territory to another. Otherwise, the security of some countries would be achieved at the expense of diminished security of others.' 'In legal terms, Russia is taking an unlawful step when it seeks to declare the strategic nuclear forces of the former USSR its own property,' Yuriy Kostenko believes."]

Morozov: Ukraine To Issue Oath for Strategic Forces

LD1104164993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ukraine's Defense Minister Morozov has said that Ukraine will issue its own text of the oath of allegiance for servicemen of strategic forces on Ukraine's territory. ITAR-TASS reports this, quoting the minister's words that, allegedly, the servicemen themselves have approached the minister with this request.

The strategic nuclear arsenals are under the operational control of the joint command of the CIS armed forces at present. According to Morozov, the status of the strategic forces in Ukraine should be determined by the republic's parliament.

Ukraine itself has not yet ratified the START I Treaty, which envisages the transfer of 176 missiles to Russia for their subsequent liquidation.

Voice of America reports that the White House regards Kiev's position as a challenge to world public opinion, since in the past Ukraine's leadership spoke of the republic's unwillingness to preserve a nuclear power status.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1534 GMT on 10 April adds: "The Ukrainian Defense Ministry has

decided to administer the oath of loyalty to Ukraine to the personnel of the 43rd Missile Army, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov told the fourth congress of the Ukrainian Union of Armed Forces Officers on Saturday [10 April]. The 43rd Army is part of the strategic nuclear forces stationed on the republic's territory.

["Morozov said his ministry's decision was based on the Ukrainian president's decree putting the strategic forces stationed on Ukraine's territory under the authority of that republic. According to the minister, 70 percent of the army's personnel were Ukrainians, who had repeatedly asked the Defense Ministry for permission to swear allegiance to their republic.

["'Those who don't wish to take the oath of loyalty to Ukraine can leave the service. We won't stop them, and will even help them,' Morozov said.

["The status of the strategic nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine would depend on what the Ukrainian parliament decided, 'but, whatever that decision is, there are nuclear weapons in Ukraine, and they will remain here for many years,' he said.

["Going over to the Black Sea Fleet issue, the minister said Ukraine had originally been planning to form its navy on the basis of that fleet but abandoned this principle as a concession to Russia both in Dagomys and Yalta, where the Russian and Ukrainian presidents signed their agreements on the Black Sea Fleet.

["The concession had proved to be senseless, however, Morozov said: the talks on the implementation of the Yalta agreements were stuck in an impasse, while 'Moscow is virtually removing the fleet from under the joint control of the two presidents.'•

["He said that, unless Moscow agreed to negotiate the division of the fleet and the withdrawal of its vessels from Sevastopol as parts of a single package of issues, Ukraine would demand that Russia withdraw all its naval forces from Ukraine.

["'Having the fleet withdrawn altogether is better than leaving foreign armed forces on our territory,' he said. 'I don't see on what terms Sevastopol, Kharkov, or Sumy could be leased to any country.'

["Morozov said the Ukrainian armed forces were today 525,000 strong, which was a little over one-third of the numerical strength of the troops stationed on the republic's territory in 1991. Over the past two years, the forces' armaments had been reduced by 2000 tanks and 477 aircraft, he said."]

Republican Party on Status of Black Sea Fleet

MK1004121493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "NEGA Reports": "Crimea"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Crimean Kray organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party issued a statement "Regarding Recent Developments in the Black Sea Fleet."

It says in part that "the Russian Defense Ministry has been taking unilateral steps of late to place the Black Sea Fleet under its jurisdiction," that "Black Sea Fleet ships are present, without the Ukrainian president's approval, in the area of the Georgia- Abkhazia conflict; they are being transferred on orders from Moscow to be permanently stationed in Russia's ports, while the Russian Defense Ministry, which has nothing to do with the Black Sea Fleet, gives orders to Black Sea Fleet commanders."

The statement argues that "there is the Russian defense minister's order No. 16 of 23 May 1992 to the effect that the Black Sea Fleet is part of Russia's Armed Forces. This order was not rescinded either after the signing of the Dagomys Agreement or after the signing of the Yalta Agreement."

The statement says that "it is time for everyone to realize: A Ukrainian state exists, and Sevastopol is an inalienable part of it."

The Crimean Kray organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party thinks that "it is necessary for the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to denounce as soon as possible the Yalta Agreement of 3 August 1992, and to define the status of the Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine: The Black Sea Fleet should either be put under the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the command of the Ukrainian Navy, or be recognized as a fleet of a foreign state in Ukraine with all the attendant circumstances."

Prime Minister Begins Tour of Persian Gulf Nations

LD1004181393 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by unidentified correspondent at Borispol airport on 10 April—recorded]

[Text] Today the official delegation headed by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma went on an official visit to countries of the Persian Gulf. In particular, it will visit Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. Our special correspondent interviewed the prime minister in Borispol airport before departure.

[Correspondent] Leonid Danylovych, this is your first visit to foreign countries, so to speak, as Ukrainian prime minister and, if I am not mistaken, generally this is the first official visit by a Ukrainian Government delegation to these countries of the Persian Gulf. So what is the aim?

[Kuchma] The aim is to say that there is such a state of Ukraine. We are very interested in establishing all, both

diplomatic and, naturally, all other relations with these countries. So we are going there with a hope.

[Correspondent] What will be examined during the talks? What directions?

[Kuchma]] Well, so far it is really to become acquainted with one another and we have very many issues of mutual relations. Well, naturally, certainly, we are interested in our future. Our future is, certainly, the energy resources.

Kuchma, Zlenko Discuss Cooperation With Croatian Official

LD0904182493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Franjo Greguric, economic adviser to the president of the Republic of Croatia, is on a two-day visit to Ukraine. Greguric and Onesin Cvitan, Croatian ambassador to Ukraine, were received by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. They discussed the development of economic and banking cooperation and an agreement on economic cooperation. Possibility of joint oil and gas exploration in Ukraine and production of oil derivatives were also discussed.

Romanian Delegation Concludes Visit

LD0904221593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The parliament delegation of Romania headed by Mr. Adrian Nastase, the chairman of the Assembly of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament, has finished its visit to Ukraine today. Today, on the last day of the visit, the delegation went to Bukovyna. Our correspondents report.

[Correspondent] In Chernovtsy Airport the guests were received as old friends because Bukovyna and Romania are neighbors. The delegation which was represented by Durdynets, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Pavlychko, the chairman of the Standing Commission for Foreign Relations, Gheorghe Marin, the permanent charge d'affairs of Romania in Ukraine. They were greeted by Hnatyshyn, the presidential representative in Chernovtsy oblast. [passage omitted]

The parliament group was received by Hnatyshyn, the presidential representative in the oblast. During the meeting in a friendly and frank atmosphere the sides paid much attention to economic, social and cultural contacts which were established between Chernovtsy oblast and the neighboring Suceava Province of Romania. The guests and hosts expressed themselves in favor of deepening and strengthening cooperation. A news conference for journalists took place at the end of the visit. Today the parliament delegation went home.

Sevastopol Demonstrators Demand To Consider City's Status

OW1204111293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite bans imposed by the authorities, several groupings in favor of the city's return to Russian jurisdiction organized a rally in Sevastopol on April 11. The number of demonstrators in Nachimov square was about 500-700 people, over 200 people gathered in Primorskiy boulevard. The demonstrators hoisted the flags of the former USSR, Soviet Navy, Russia and Republic of Crimea.

The demonstrators adopted an address to the people of Russia, President, and chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet with a demand to urgently consider the issue on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the status of Sevastopol. The Sevastopol residents also proposed to include in the April 25 referendum the question of the status of Sevastopol as either the main Black Sea naval base of CIS Joint Armed forces or of Russia.

In addition, the meeting in Primorskiy boulevard adopted an address to CIS heads of states containing demands to withdraw Ukrainian armed forces from the Crimea.

National Affairs

Congress of Officers Union Opens in Kiev

LD1004194893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The Fourth Congress of the Officers Union of Ukraine started work in Kiev today.

[Begin recording[[Unidentified correspondent] More than 600 delegates from military formations from all over Ukraine will hear a report for the past year by the executive committee and discuss directions of the Officers Union at present. They will elect the governing bodies of the union and will examine current matters.

Taking part in the congress' work are people's deputies, Ukrainian Defense Minister K. Morozov, and official representatives of state structures as well as political and public organizations.

[Begin recording] What tasks does the Officers Union of Ukraine set for itself at present?

[Unidentified speaker] At present, the officers corps is the only state structure that can guarantee peace, quiet, and accord in Ukraine. So we will be working in this direction. The main task for the transitional period, as we call it, for the period, which is difficult in terms of economy, is to prevent a fratricidal war in Ukraine and those terrible events which happened in Dniester

Region, in Nagorno-Karabakh, and now in Abkhazia and Georgia. [end recording]

Supports Preservation of Nuclear Status

LD1104165693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1521 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 11 Apr—Participants in the fourth Congress of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, which ended today, have spoken out in favor of the preservation of Ukraine's nuclear status.

The adopted resolution speaks of the need to "suspend the operation of the Yalta agreement on the Black Sea fleet," to transfer to the reserve all officers "who have not adopted Ukrainian citizenship and those who are openly or secretly holding up the process of the organizational development of the national army." The resolution goes on to say that the congress regards as advisable the introduction in the Army of the institution of chaplaincy and the acceleration of the transition to a state language.

Major General Aleksandr Skipalskiy was elected chairman of the Union of Officers of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Issues Easter Message to Citizens

LD1004055393 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1451 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Easter message issued by President Leonid Kravchuk; place and date not given]

[Text] [No dateline as received] I address you, citizens of Ukraine and our compatriots abroad, on the occasion of the serene resurrection of Christ, speaking words of greeting and most sincerely wishing you health, well-being, and happiness.

This majestic holiday from time immemorial has been a symbol of the victory over the forces of darkness and evil, the triumph of reconciliation and forgiveness, and the wholehearted joy of Christians of the whole world.

These symbols and aspirations of all Christians and of all human beings have a special and fundamental significance for Ukraine that has just resurrected.

At this difficult time we associate particular hopes with these primeval Christian values. These are the hopes for attaining social harmony, restoring moral health, and healing chronic wounds. That is why misunderstanding and disagreement between the various churches and distressing interdenominational conflicts, echo painfully and bitterly in the heart of every citizen of Ukraine, break the calm of the country, and harm its international prestige.

The grand aim of our young state is to achieve reconciliation between churches, strengthen friendly relations between spiritual pastors and believers, and create conditions for the all-sided implementation by all the churches of their noble constructive mission.

We do not have and cannot have "our own" and "alien" churches. So, may this day that brings light make us closer to each other and unite us by a fervent prayer for the renewal of our land. May the sublime words [of a renowned Ukrainian prayer] "The Great and the One God! Protect Ukraine for us..." enter from now on the soul and the heart of every man; resound with kindness, concord, and love; and become an appeal for working freely in the name of our independent state.

Christ is Risen! Ukraine is Risen!

[Signed] Leonid Kravchuk

Kravchuk Speaks to Educators on Domestic, Foreign Policy

LD1004212593

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1900 GMT on 9 April carries a 13-minute recorded report by an unidentified correspondent on a speech by President Leonid Kravchuk to the first session of the Association of Rectors of Higher Educational Establishments of Ukraine at Kiev University on 9 April. The report includes several recorded passages from Kravchuk's speech.

The correspondent says that Kravchuk began by welcoming the creation of the new association, and then discusses the necessity to train specialists.

Kravchuk is then heard saying: "Lately, we often debate—and sometimes when appointing people who have already been trained, who are going to take up specific jobs—we debate about what is more important. For example, is professionalism or devotion to the cause—devotion to statehood, independence, our foundations, our basic principles of life—more important? I think that such a debate does not have any kind of foundation.

"A combination of these is needed, and nothing else. In the short time we have been building our state, we have already been convinced in many rayons, oblasts, towns, and here in the central bodies of power, that devotion alone—or devotion that is only noisy words—is insufficient to be at the head of one or the other area of work.

"On the other hand, I want to speak to you frankly. We have many examples of people who have been fairly professionally trained and have worked to the detriment of the state. They do not necessarily work to the detriment of the state because they are against the state. They work for their own benefit, and this means they work to the detriment of the state. At the same time, they make use of their professional training fairly intensely. There are such examples everywhere in Ukraine. Only such a

combination of professionalism and responsibility—with the capability to stand up for one's state and for the people—can bring results."

Kravchuk then relates that he recently visited a state naval academy in Odessa, where the training is up to world standards.

The correspondent says that Kravchuk understands that higher education needs assistance, although this will not be easy with the budget deficit.

Kravchuk is then heard speaking about Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy problems. He says: "(?There are three) areas that we should now keep—no matter what it costs us—and with whatever power necessary. These are power engineering, the agrarian sector, and currency—three areas. We should keep them under our direct state control. If we manage to maintain them, then the state will stand up economically. We must maintain them, because everything else depends on this. These are now the foundations for Ukraine, on which we will live and provide schools, higher education, higher schools, the Armed Forces, administrative structures, and everything else. Naturally, these are three immediate tasks for this year. They are all connected.

"The fourth thing that we should do is to entirely reconstruct our financial, credit, and banking systems, and introduce our own monetary unit. When will we be able to do this? Either toward the end of the year, or at the beginning of next year. We cannot delay this for long because the strength of the monetary unit that we have is very low. This level is determined not only because it does not have any special strength behind it, but also for psychological reasons as well.

"No-one wants to seriously argue that the coupon is money. We should go over to a monetary unit, with reconstruction and reform. I want to say [word indistinct) of the banking, credit, and financial system. These are the four most important problems that we must resolve. Each of them is a whole great area. Great effort needs to be applied.

"In the international area, I am simply stressing to you, that I speak in favor of Ukraine integrating both into the system of the former states of the former Union and into Europe. For us, integration with Russia is one of the most immediate problems. This is integration on new principles, on new foundations, on a new basis, and, at the same time, it is integration that is naturally—economically, territorially, and historically, if you like—is inevitable. If someone is going to understand this differently, it will mean permanent lagging behind, permanent dissatisfaction, and permanent confrontation. For two great peoples to live together—two states that have not reached accord, friendship, and partnership with one another—this would mean to doom ourselves to preparing all the time for some confrontation. To survive under such conditions and to achieve success is extraordinarily difficult. This is not because the world is constructed this way, but because we live like this, and our history is like this.

"As far as Europe is concerned, we cannot avoid thinking about the fact that Ukraine is a European state. We cannot avoid thinking about advanced technologies, and also integration into Europe. This concerns everyone. If one looks at the market today, then we can only enter the east European and the central European markets. The western market is limited for us for the moment. First, it is shared out. Second, our possibilities—quality, prices, and other similar things—do not balance very well with the possibilities that other states have. Therefore, time is needed.

"So I spoke on two initiatives, you know. The first is eastern and central European security. The second is setting up an eastern European central market for states of the former USSR, for its parts and those of the former so-called socialist camp. I think these are realistic things, so that we can trade, exchange, and have [word indistinct] realistic chances.

"As far as great powers are concerned—the great powers, the United States of America, Russia—the politics of great powers, whether you want it or not, differ from our politics. There is a difference in principle (?here) between us and the great powers. When Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin met in Vancouver, they spoke about their own problems and about problems of dividing up the world. When we assemble, we do not divide up the world. This is the difference, you see. So, this simply needs to be understood, that they have different aims, other tasks.

"When Boris Yeltsin says that he would like to take on the right to ensure security on the whole territory of the former Union, then he says this as the leader of a great power. I would never say this. This is the psychology of great powers. So we should set up both a security zone and a market, not in order to wage war—not in any case—but in order to have contact with each other as partners, so that we ourselves defend our national and other interests."

Cabinet Approves Measures on Use of Natural Gas

LD0904222393 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution approving temporary measures of the use of natural gas. This is due to the fact that the population of Ukraine uses almost 20 billion karbovantsi worth—3 billion cubic meters—of natural gas above the norms currently in force. The temporary norms will be in force until the end of the 1993-1994 heating period.

Parliament Approves 1993 Budget, Friendship Treaties

LD0904205193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The adoption of the Law of Ukraine on the State Budget of Ukraine for the year 1993 and the approval of the corresponding resolution on the implementation of this law was the main event of today's session of the Supreme Council.

[Unidentified correspondent] Quite a long and constructive discussion concerning the draft of the resolution took place. People's deputies were active in submitting their additions and comments regarding, literally, every article and every clause of the document. However, on the whole, the formulation proposed by the Supreme Council Commission for Planning, Budget, Finance, and Prices was supported by the majority of votes.

According to the resolution adopted, the Cabinet of Ministers was instructed, in particular, to develop within a period of one month a system of settling accounts in connection with the fulfillment of the state order and state contract to ensure that the salary reform is carried out and to abolish a considerable amount of the existing exemptions, which will require considerable funds to cover them.

Another important aspect is that the financing of the housing construction program for moving citizens away from territories polluted as a result of the breakdown at Chernobyl nuclear power station must be provided in full. Taking into account the difficult financial state of economy, it was recommended that the government reduce a number of tax benefits and, at the same time, develop a concept to grant them in general. From now on, we will be working on the basis of a state budget and, therefore, hope that there will be more order.

The Supreme Council also ratified treaties on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and a number of states today. These are with the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Bulgaria.

The draft of the Forestry Code was examined in the first reading. Forestry Minister Valeriy Samoplavskyy delivered a report.

The next plenary session, as was announced by Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, will be closed and will take place on 20 April.

State Committee Defines Tasks for Border Troops

LD1004205593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Guaranteeing the inviolability and territorial integrity of Ukraine; defending its political, military, and ecological interests in the border regions; preventing armed formations and terrorists from penetrating into the country; and also the transporting of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and drugs—these are the main tasks of the border troops for the spring and summer period of 1993 which were defined at the meeting of the State Committee for Issues of Defense of the State Border of Ukraine.

Belarus

Shushkevich Addresses Supreme Soviet 9 Apr

LD1004141493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1755 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Speech by Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich at the 11th Supreme Soviet session in Minsk on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed deputies: I have to answer a question by the deputies who are absent at the moment. It is about my understanding of our priorities in Belarusian domestic and foreign policies.

I believe that we should create genuine democracy in the sphere of domestic policy, ensure principal human rights, and protect citizens from violence on the part of other citizens and the authorities. A law-governed state means a firm balance of the executive and legislative branches both in the center and in localities, based on the Constitution and laws.

In the economic sphere, we should create a socially oriented market economy with different forms of ownership, including comprehensive support for individual and private initiative with preservation of the optimum level of social guarantees for the population.

In foreign policy, we should consolidate the independence of our state so that Belarus takes its rightful place in the international community. There can be various models of our state. For example, it might be a strictly national state, based only on the heritage of previous generations. A Slavic option is also possible as a three path variant: Moscow, Kiev, and Minsk, or the Minsk-Moscow axis. Also, I support the third variant, which is a neutral and politically stable state, which has no distinct Eastern or Western orientation. In its political and economical strategy it strives to be a source of stability in the region. Today, we are clearly adhering to an Eastern orientation. We should see this as the reality. Although we should support and develop it, this orientation must not prevent us from establishing other contacts and contacts in the West. This is my understanding of the essense of this problem.

Let us see what is happening today in this room. We are witnessing a power crisis—a very, very dangerous power crisis—but unlike the opposition and many deputies present here, I do not consider this crisis a result of neglectful, haphazard, or even felonious work or attitudes of some individuals from the government or the Supreme Soviet. I attribute it largely to the inertia of the process of thinking and to our antiquated mentality, all of us still do. From time to time I catch myself doing it. In the past, we had a pretty simple model of training managers and those who occupy responsible positions in the bodies of authority. The whole process was carried out on the basis of plans and instructions. The party would make an instruction, which served as the basis for an economic plan crafted by the government and the State Planning Commmittee. And then we would go to Moscow and—not exactly us, I did not have anything to do with it—and gained certain points on certain positions, eventually followed by the execution of that plan. The plan was a sacred thing. It was clear what had to be done and how and we were obliged to follow the guidelines. With great effort we kept striving for the fulfillment of that plan. So, we have trained managers that only know how to fulfill a plan. They went, bent their knees, worked on achieving things and gained great competence in that area I would say.

Modern time call for a different approach. Today, we have to make calculations and boost production using economic methods and to strive towards market economy. I am saying all this on the basis of the decisions which we have taken. The old managers are not capable of working in the new manner. But they are the only ones that we have. In addition, we do not have as much time as Moses from the Bible, who led people through the desert for years.

We must use the state mass media. We must live through this hard time as quickly as possible; we have in effect the change of the old generation of managers and directors who harbor the old notions—I do not have in mind individuals. The mentality has changed. There are conditions for that. The region that works on market principles is open to us. It is now open to us but it was closed before. And the region is open to us that wants to work on market principles and from time to time overtakes us. We started to work according to the principles of the market. We have all the conditions necessary to change the mentality of our authorities and no revolution will lead anywhere because we will bring to power noisier but less competent politicians. I am sure about it. Currently, we are open to the world. We had never been so open before. We should learn to make contact with the neighboring countries according to the market requirements.

The majority of us in this hall are praying for the military industrial complex. The percentage of militaries and industrialists among the deputies is higher than among the ordinary population. I would like to stress what I have been talking about in the report. The components of a suprastate have disappeared in Russia. And we are an appendix to those components. We should change the structure of our industry which was former working for the USSR military industry. We do not have to produce missiles, tanks, and to build submarines with such intensity for half of the world. We will lose that industry. We must convert it. There is no other way.

The next issue: It was heavily criticized by you. The issues on the president, on the new Constitution, and on the division of powers. I emphasize: there is an internal contradiction in the results of our vote. One should think about it. I am not saying how to solve the issue. We will come to it anyway. We will collide in all of this. Why should you criticize me just for bringing in proposals to

analyze the situation beforehand and to take preventive measures? But I am told here: use the absolute results of the vote as a guideline.

Health protection: There was its criticism here. Excuse me, I did not attack the health minister. In my opinion, the ministry that created the structures which farmed out the social security issues to half commercial, half state, and half private companies is quite well aware of the fact. The ministry should be blamed for the state of affairs in this sphere. The situation must be changed. As for the minister, he is much respected by me and is one of the most honest and efficient ministers of the government.

Culture, science, language: I do not know if there a parliament in the world that has the same attitude toward its national, state language. Whom do you attack? Think over this issue. It is not a complex problem after all. There were times when all Russia was speaking French. There were times when Russia thought that there was no talent at all in Russia. Please, do remember about Lomonosov.

Why do we forget about Belarusian history? Why do we sling mud at it? Where does this hostility to Belarusianness come from? Why do we oppose this? Let us show respect for the previous Supreme Soviet, respect its decisions. I have never opposed any idea of economic integration or economic union. I have enjoyed absolute support and understanding on the side of the government.

Now the chapter dealing with foreign policy. I want to apologize to you, Deputy Tsyareshka, I did not use your thoroughly prepared materials in the report because they cast a shadow on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before I saw it in the same way as you do now. I have never advised you to see it any differently because I know that with your honesty and with your orientation you will understand very quickly what is happening. I am indignant that I should be criticized on that issue, that my dimissal should be demanded. I do not even talk about Kebich. Each deputy here can also demand his dismissal too. But as soon as one remark is made regarding the minister of foreign affairs one starts shouting fire, fire".

They say: Please, do not stand in our way. What is the meaning of this? Who outlines the policy—the Supreme Soviet or the Foreign Ministry? The Supreme Soviet outlines it, and the Foreign Ministry is supposed to carry it out. Let Andrey Gromyko's fate serve as an example. Whatever policy was determined by the Central Committee, he always implemented it. He—a Belarussian by the way—was called the best performer of the worst policy. It is his international reputation. This is not an insult, this is a great honor because it is difficult to implement such a policy. I want to say now that I am not a naive person, I think that our structure is an instrument of implementing policy. I know well who the Foreign Ministry is subordinate to. However, when I talk to the prime minister, he agrees with me that corrections should be made there. I will list for you who deals with foreign affairs here. The economic issue: Myasnikovich and Kostikov; Kenik is responsible for humanitarian aid and Dzyamchuk is responsible for culture. By the way, he signs agreements about which neither the Supreme Soviet nor the Foreign Ministry know and afterwards we dig this out. I have listed a few, I could talk about other leaders, they act in a lesser degree. Why do you complain about it? The next position. There were no demarches? You produced the biggest demarch in the world that could ever be produced. This happened because you did not insist in accordance with the law on a timely ratification of these documents and took no measures. And now we are extricating ourselves. Afterward you sent many delegations. I am not surprised there was a lot of expense; there had to be because those issues had to be settled in Vienna and in the Netherlands and in other places in order not to stand in the way of the world community.

Do not make statements that you will open an embassy in Seoul while there is the great China next to it. I could continue like this. One should not ask how to react to the speech by Kozyrev. Zlenko did not ask, he voiced (?his reaction) right away. As for you, you say: Give me guidelines. Is this what our policy is like?

Do not blame us for acknowledging Macedonia. I think it was a display of Slav solidarity. I think there are no conflicts there also because we acknowledged them, and we did it much earlier than others. I could also speak about the cultural aspect. Do you understand? One can speak a lot, but one can ask those who know the matter better to do it. I will simply not allow myself to be reproached for my university education—although I did not have a practical course for fighting sobriety or in an ideological department of a town party committee.

Now I will talk about the collective security issue. I believe that the main mistake of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that it failed to adopt a scientific approach toward the collective security issue, based on international law. What is the main point here? Since August 1991, when we voluntarily declared to the whole world that we strive for neutrality, your experts and you yourself, Petr Kuzmich, should have remembered about the Vienna Convention of 1969, which obliges states to abide by signed treaties and fulfill assumed commitments. So why should we not abide by them? There can be a change only if conditions change. Are we supposed to send threatening phone messages? That is the opinion of the military. I understand them. They will dig out anything in order to prove that we are theatened by Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia—not even mentioning Ukraine. It is so frightening. We should serve as an example of opposition to military escalation and expenditures. We should show that when we now adopt a practically new military doctrine and move away from neutrality, the first reaction of Poland will be: if they do it this way we have to reinforce ourselves too. And there goes an escalation. And I think that we should follow the example of other countries, like Poland, the Baltic states, Romania, and Moldova, and assume the status of neutrality [words indistinct] and declare that we have no claims. Assume the status of neutrality, declare that you

are the same as us, that you have no claims. I think that we will eventually step on this path.

As for NATO, they see that we do not agree to collective security, and I think that we should agree. It is so because they, the NATO generals, would be unemployed if we did not have a union here. This is why I believe that the best guarantee of our security is bilateral agreements with Russia. We already have them. It is a more complicated thing to observe these agreements within the CIS and by joint command over our Armed Forces. Note the approach that we had. What is its superiority over others? We have assumed right away, I think, a very clear line. We said: there are no CIS Armed Forces on our territory. We consider these forces Russian—we recognize that they are under Russian jurisdiction—and hold negotiations with Russia. It has simplified the whole system. One does not have to meet with all the CIS countries, but only negotiate with the Russian Government and the Defense Ministry. Look how we have straightened out everything. We have concluded all the treaties. We are consistently going toward withdrawal of the troops. Foreign aid—by the way Clinton has confirmed it now—will allocate houses in Russia for those troops. We are solving that issue. Why do we have to involve someone else in it? I think we should not do it.

We should only adopt political decisions, because we have all the agreements in place. Let me remind you that in 1991, in Kiev, I signed a two-year agreement which will be valid until 20 March 1994. This means that we already have collective defense. But we intend to take it step by step, because now we cannot help being in a collective defense and we are in one. What is the issue? We are dealing here with a political declaration of the Supreme Soviet about changing our political course. This is how the world will see it. What can one do in this situation when we have found ourselves faced with a stark choice.

Kuzmyankow had the courage to write a verse in 1953. In my student years, I had the same convictions: Well, perhaps this is the way it is supposed to be. How could you reproach it when 1956 [when Khrushchev revealed many of Stalin's crimes at the 20th Congress of the CPSU] revealed what Stalin was like. Do you call these political arguments? I am sorry, but I do not understand who you serve. I would have never presented such an issue.

There is an outcry that servicemen receive good wages, which we will continue to support. However, I am ashamed to say what wages teachers have. There are more servicemen here than teachers.

Esteemed deputies, I will not dissuade the majority of the Supreme Soviet from adopting this decision. I know that I will not have enough arguments and you will have not enough energy. The inertia is too strong. You want to choose this way. You will spoil our relations both with Yeltsin and with Russia by this step because this means support for certain forces in Russia, which are not democratic. Under the circumstances, I believe that there is no other solution than to ask the people. I propose the following: In compliance with the Belarusian Law on Referendum, I request the Supreme Soviet of the Belarusian Republic to adopt a decision to conduct a national referendum on the status of the Belarusian neutrality in May 1993. I suggest that the following question be included on the ballot: Do you support Belarusian neutrality which envisions non-participation of Belarus in any military unions with other states or their alliances? And let me tell you this: when the people vote in favor of this union, I will have no moral right to remain the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Belarusian Republic. I will resign immediately. But I would like those pressing for this union to find the courage and do the same thing. When my electoral district No. 44 in Minsk votes for the union, I will give up my powers of deputy, because that will mean that I do not know what my electorate thinks. However, I am convinced that it will vote against this kind of union.

I sympathize with deputy Syargey Mikhailavich Kotaw, who represents a predominantly military electorate. They will no doubt come out in favor of such a union. One must take into account such situations. But it does not change my opinion about you, nor undermine your sincerity, nor your honesty. There will be such collisions and situations.

It is time to ask the people what to do. I propose that we make an appeal to such countries as Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Moldova, possibly Hungary, and perhaps some other countries to voice their neutrality status, creating a strip of neutral states, which would be a guarantor of our security, stability in Europe, and an example to follow. Belarus has a good image worldwide, which we have obtained through hard work, including the Supreme Soviet. I think that we should take advantage of this.

Security Chief Addresses Supreme Soviet 8 Apr

WS0904124693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1007 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Speech by Lieutenant General Eduard Shirkovskiy, chairman of the Belarusian State Security Committee, at the 11th Supreme Soviet Session in Minsk—live, in Russian]

[Text] Esteemed deputies!

We have already heard a number of opinions on the report of the Supreme Soviet chairman and on the issue of joining or signing the collective security agreement. I will probably have to dwell only on some facts that the State Security Committee possesses. I know that this will not be easy because the session is open and ... [Shouts in audience]. I would like to explain one more thing. I spoke at a closed meeting of the previous session [words indistinct], and half a day later everyone knew what I had said.

We should make one thing clear—the most important issue is not the agreement but the political strife in the

Republic. This is the first thing. I appeal to all deputies that they should each adopt their personal decision. This will determine how readily we will resolve this issue: Are we moving toward concluding a security agreement with Russia or with NATO? [Shouts of surprise] I beg your pardon, but I have made such an impression.

When we speak of Belarus' sovereignty, for some reason we think that it cannot conclude any military agreements. However, such sovereign and democratic states, and this is the second fact, as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and others have announced their request to join NATO. This is also a fact. Moreover, I would like to tell you that these countries, plus Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Hungary are considering the issue of joining the NATO-bis [transitional grouping for countries that want to join NATO] alliance. This military alliance will be subordinated to the NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Is there any threat to Belarus today? According to the data of our committee and the Defense Ministry, I would like to make it clear that no one threatens our Republic. However, there are some problems. The first of them is the following. Pavel Pavlovich [defense minister] said in his address that if the necessary measures were not taken, the situation in the Armed Forces would be catastrophic, which we all know. On the other hand, while we are implementing the military reform and reducing our Army, and I think that this is correct and necessary, our neighbors, I will not name them, are strengthening their Armies. They are increasing their forces; divisions are substituted by corps, corps by brigades, and so on.

I would like to draw your attention to one more fact. People understand that democratic changes are irreversible. At the same time, you have familiarized yourselves with the material about some western countries, I will not mention them, that are talking about changing borders. One border, another border.... Unfortunately, there is some hidden talk about reviewing the borders of Belarus. So far such views are not weighty and they are expressed by certain political groups, but they do exist. We must take them into account and look ahead.

Why are we so afraid of Russia? Will it enslave us or what? We are a sovereign state. Let us see what Russia is like. I saw on television the day before yesterday that U.S. President Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin agreed to conclude a military agreement between Russia and the United States. Their joint military maneuvers will begin soon. So, why are we so afraid, when even the United States is not scared of this agreement? [Shouts in audience].

I would also like to dwell on some other issues. [Shouts of disagreement]

Esteemed deputies!

The problem is that it is very difficult to persuade both the military and the industrialists to conclude the agreement. Many of them present their arguments, even pencil in hand. The foreign minister has said that this agreement binds us. Yes it does, but not forever and not for life. As stated in one of its articles, six months later we may withdraw from it any time.

Today, however, I have one request. Dear deputies, we should settle this issue very peacefully. I report to you that emotions are running high among the population. The Supreme Soviet has attracted the attention of the nation. The latter does not understand what is the matter. The nation understands that a fight is going on in the Supreme Soviet and that the legislature may [word indistinct] adopt a decision. All this has a negative effect on our matters. While we are talking about this issue, we should remember that 1,200,000 Belarusians live in Russia and that 1,300,000 Russians are inhabitants of our country. When debating the issue of whether to sign the agreement or not, we should understand all this. This is a decision about people's destinies and our attitude toward our brethren there. We forget them, but they are a million-strong. There are about 700,000 Belarusians in Moscow alone.

The State Security Committee has also analyzed this issue and come to the conclusion that we should sign the agreement. I will tell you frankly that this issue was discussed at the collegium and that opinions differed. But we see that in the current situation, the solution must be positive. I would like to tell you that the committee.... [Noise in audience] It is you that will have to decide. It will be the way you decide. The State Security Committee will strictly obey your decision. As the chairman of the State Security Committee, I have expressed my opinion.

I could also present to you some more data about the Baltic Sea and the events there, and about other issues. I believe that my time is up and that I have expressed my opinion.

Thank you for your attention.

Kravchenko Speaks on Collective Security Treaty

WS0904124193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0958 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Speech by Foreign Minister Petr Kuzmich Kravchenko at the 11th Supreme Soviet session in Minsk—live]

[Text] Dear friends! Today it can seem romantic to play a role of a defender of sovereignty and neutrality of our state. But you can defend this neutral and sovereign status only in case your country has it in the full scope. Unfortunately, I must say that such notions as neutrality and sovereignty do not come out of the blue. We have proclaimed neutrality, but a long and difficult path toward this constitutional dream is awaiting us. The neutrality of a country is formed over dozens and hundreds of years. Switzerland, for example, began creating its neutrality in 1815. Finland, which is not a classically neutral country, is currently undergoing this process. Belarus will do the same. This is the highest political and moral responsibility, because Belarus must make a choice and choose the right way to protect its

neutrality. Thus, there is the neutrality of a juridical status recognized by the world community, and the neutrality as a policy, which, for example, is being pursued by Finland. From 1948 to 1991 this country had been adhering to the political treaty on cooperation and friendship with the USSR, and this did not harm its aspirations of becoming a state of with neutral status. Currently, Belarus is in this stage. Belarus is a state that has declared its neutrality and is achieve to get this juridical status. We must solve the issues of the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from our territory up to 1 January 2000 and the other issues. But the final aim is that deputies should adopt the necessary political and juridical acts confirming Belarus' neutrality. We can go the way Malta has gone. In (?1981), Malta declared its neutrality, but only 12 years later was this neutral status recognized by the world community at a Madrid conference. This means that Belarus faces several possible ways of development. In my opinion, we can currently discuss the concept of neutrality. But our legislature could make a grave mistake today. A civilized country never discusses a concept of foreign policy. We should at first define the following fundamental notions: What does a nonnuclear state mean? What is neutrality? What does it mean to be on a par with our partners? At the beginning, we should define a concept of a neutrality. I propose to consider Finland's concept of neutrality. We should build our relations with Russia the way Finland has done. We need excellent economic relations, a mutually beneficial partnership, and normal political ties with Russia. From this perspective, the collective security pact does not contradict our national legislation. I do not know a single Belarusian ministry or department that has found contradictions with our laws in the collective security system. There are contradictions of another type. I would like to enumerate them: When our legislature signs the corresponding treaty, we will have to admit that it contradicts the Law "On Defense," the Law "On The Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus," the Supreme Soviet Decree "On Implementation of Military Doctrine of the Republic of Belarus," "On Military Periodical Trainings and Terms of Military Service of Persons Who Are Called Up From the Territory of Belarus." What is the solution? If you decide to join the collective security system, you will have to adopt several provisions. They can provide that Belarus enters the collective security system and not the military- political bloc. What are Belarusians currently anxious about? Our children should not die. In my opinion, our mass media have mixed up everything: People are being convinced that the collective security system is a military-political union. We should explain that it is not true. We have a number of provisions which specify that Belarusian servicemen will never be deployed in hotspots. The decision to adopt such reservations rests with you. The Foreign Ministry has elaborated these reservations. I would like to bring them to your notice. In Clause No. 4: In case the aggression starts against any collective security pact member, the Republic of Belarus considers its aid as being of a material, technical, and military-consultative character. If you adopt this provision and the Council of the Heads of the States pursues such a policy, not a single Belarusian servicemen will take part in combat operations outside Belarus. I think that the most complicated issue for us today is the issue connected with the political situation in Russia. It is unstable. There is one variant that could satisfy all the political factions in the legislature. You can adopt a decision: To sign the collective security treaty with certain reservations. But for the time being, you should not formulate these reservations. Then, two to six months from now, certain provisions could be developed. The Belarusian Foreign Ministry has already formulated such provisions. But this is only our point of view. This timeframe will give us the possibility to weigh the political situation in Russia. We are for good relations with democratic Russia. But we should make a political maneuver. By fall, you could form your opinion on the issue. Many things could be changed before fall comes. I want to declare: We are currently discussing the issues of Belarus signing the treaty, which has not yet come into force. This treaty has virtually been signed by five states, but only one state has ratified this treaty. This treaty will come into force when it is ratified by all five states. This process can last until next year. Moreover, our positive decision could give a political stimulus to Russia; next, we could get a more thorough view on the issue of the economic union. Furthermore: You know that one must pay for significant partnership. If at some time you are convinced that significant partnership is out of the question, and virtually the entire USSR is being restored you will find enough power to defend the national interests and sovereignty of Belarus. Thank you.

Supreme Soviet Ratifies Security Treaty With 'Reservations'

LD0904135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By the BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 9 April—The Belarus parliament today instructed Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich "to sign the collective security treaty concluded on 15 May 1992 in Tashkent, with certain reservations." Altogether, 188 deputies voted for this—34 were against and 30 abstained.

Stanislav Shushkevich himself voted against joining the treaty and described the results of the vote as "very bad." He proposed that a referendum on this question be held throughout the republic before parliament ratifies the treaty. However, under Belarus law, a decision on a referendum cannot be taken at an extraordinary session, and the present session in Minsk is an extraordinary one. There were also proposals to include other vital questions on referendum ballots, in particular questions on the basic provisions of the new draft constitution, on private ownership of land, and others. For this reason, the MPs decided to postpone their debate on the referendum issue and the referendum questions to the next session, which is expected to start on 18 May.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium was instructed to draft the wording of the reservations. These will, evidently, be conditions for the use of Belarusian Armed Forces on the territory of other states and conditions for the deployment of other states' armed forces on Belarusian territory.

Moldova

Snegur Wants Peaceful End to Dniester Conflict

LD0904153393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau April 9 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has called on the population of the Dniester region not to believe the rumours that Moldova is preparing to unleash a new war.

In his statement for the mass media Snegur said that the leaders of the republic unanimously desire "not to allow new skirmishes and intend to put an end to strife in the republic through parliamentary means."

Rules Out New Conflict

OW0904193493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur, of Moldova, has said that he is not going to start another armed conflict in Transdniesteria. Interviewed on national television Friday [9 April] President Snegur said the country's top officials were unanimous that the conflict in the eastern areas of Moldova must be resolved by political means.

Snegur urged the people of Transdniesteria to avoid believing the falsehoods about the Moldovan army being armed to the brink.

"Moldova's leaders seek to prevent bloodshed from starting again and to bring about a political settlement of disputes," Snegur said.

As he met with the Russian-Moldovan commission for inter- parliamentary cooperation on the same day, the Moldovan President said he planned an early meeting with Tiraspol leaders to discuss further steps towards a settlement of the Transdniesteria problem.

Russian deputies noted the trend towards normalization in Transdniestria.

Russian parliamentary delegates said that the Russian Supreme Soviet would soon form a working group to prepare the treaty with Moldova for ratification. Russian deputies believe that the treaty must be reconsidered in part, because two years have already passed since the day it was signed. They recalled that the process of democratization continued in Russia and Moldova throughout that period.

Snegur Meets Russian Delegation, Visits Dniester Region

LD0904154393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau April 9 TASS—On Friday, President Mircea Snegur of Moldova met a delegation of Russian people's deputies, who arrived in the republic at the invitation of the Moldovan Parliament. They visited the Dniester region and districts predominantly populated by Gagauzians.

Snegur informed his guests about the measures which Moldova was taking to resolve the internal conflicts peacefully and which were already giving positive results.

"The problem of the Gagauz region is nearly solved, whereas the situation in the Dniester region remains tense," Snegur pointed out.

In his opinion, one of the reasons is that the Tiraspol leaders increase their demands from time to time, which prevents both sides from reaching an agreement.

Snegur Adviser on Status of Talks With Russia on 14th Army

OW0904162493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Chisinau the fourth round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations are being held on the status of the 14th Russian Army and the time tables and procedures for its withdrawal from the republic. In an exclusive interview with an Interfax correspondent, state advisor to the president on military issues Nikolay Kirtoake explained Moldova's stance on the issue.

At the previous stage of negotiations, he said, the main issue was not resolved - the clear determination of the legal status of the Russian armed forces contingent. Moldova proposes defining the conditions for its temporary presence in the republic, which include the rights, commitments, and conditions of movement of units, flights over the republic's territory, and so on. Unfortunately, Kirtoake claimed, Russia is using various excuses to avoid establishing legal status such that the 14th Army would represent a contingency of foreign troops temporarily stationed on the territory of Moldova against the will of the nation, which the republic's parliament has declared more than once.

The second issue which the state advisor believes must be resolved at the negotiations is the establishment of time tables and conditions for the withdrawal of the Russian troops. However, Russia has put forth political

conditions, including the ultimate settlement of the Transdniester conflict, he said. "We in the republic have been perfectly informed of the negative role the 14th Army played in the conflict. The Russian delegation feels that its role was positive, and the 14th Army did not aggravate the conflict. This difference of approaches and evaluations must also be overcome," said Kirtoake.

He said that Russia's advancement of any preconditions to precede the withdrawal of the 14th Army are "completely unsubstantiated." The state advisor stressed that "from the standpoint of international law standards, this could clearly qualify as a display of political pressure on the Moldovan leadership for the adoption of decisions in the interests of separatist, anti-constitutional forces."

The negotiations have gone on since September of last year. Said the state advisor, "Moldova is not at all interested in dragging out the consideration of the withdrawal of the contingency of Russian forces from its territory." Of the remaining points of dispute, he said, "on their own they are few and from a technical standpoint these problems are resolvable." "We are prepared to form normal conditions for military personnel, to construct housing for them," he claimed. The state advisor said that the situation is "not comparable" with the situation of Russian troops in the Baltics.

Kirtoake said postponing the withdrawal of Russian troops is undesirable for Moldova because "the presence of an armed contingency on the territory of the republic represents a threat to its independence and territorial integrity." He hopes that the parties will resolve all these problems and sign a corresponding agreement.

Commander of the 14th Army Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, who has arrived in Chisinau to participate in the negotiations, told journalists that it is still too early to discuss time tables for withdrawing Russian troops from Moldova. He believes that "the soldiers should remain here until the social-political situation is fully stabilized and normal conditions are established for the withdrawal of the units and their relocation in a new place." The problem, he said, "is that there's nowhere to go." At present, Lobed said, the soldiers are conducting military preparations, building housing for officers, and trying to stay out of politics.

Lobed spoke clearly in favor of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Transdniester, stressing that he is hoping for "national diplomacy, which would break down the wall of mistrust between the residents of the two banks of the Dniester."

Russian General on Talks

LD1004174593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The fourth round of talks between delegations from Moldova and the Russian Federation on the status of the 14th Russian Army and on the terms and conditions of its withdrawal from the Dniester Region has ended.

[Correspondent V. Martynov] Colonel General Vorobyev, head of the military section of the Russian delegation, has said that the talks are proceeding with some difficulties. The sides are divided over many articles of the future treaty. Nonetheless, talking to a "Vesti" correspondent on his way back to Moscow, Gen. Vorobyev expressed hope that the two sides would eventually reach mutual understanding on all issues.

Thus, an agreement on assistance to the Russian Army in clearing mines from fields is now almost ready to be signed. Although no shots have been fired in the Dniester Region for the past nine months, people are still being killed. The deaths are caused by mines left behind since the time of the bloody conflict. The echo of the conflict is also reverberating at the talks.

[Begin Vorobyev recording] What causes the most difficulties is the wound left by the conflict, the wound that is yet to heal, as it were. Because the people involved, among other things, in the process of negotiations, took immediate and active part in these events, on one side or on the other. [end recording]

Gagauz President Favors Autonomous Status Within Moldova

AU1104191593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1655 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 10/4/1993—"We don't insist on federalization, but have the right to constitute some autonomous formations within the framework of Moldova," indicated the President of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic, Stefan Topal, in his interview for "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI." In reference to the differences which appeared during the meetings in Istanbul with the President of Parliament from Chisinau, Topal mentions that "We consider that Gagauzia should be a national-state formation but Chisinau insists on a formulation based on the phrase "national territorial." In the context of the External Relations, Topal underlined that the relations with the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic are "many times better than the ones with Moldova," and despite the fact that it doesn't have state relations with Russia, in some aspects they are good.

Kazakhstan

Reportage on Visit of Turkish President Ozal

Holds News Conference With Nazarbayev

TA0904142893 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] President Turgut Ozal ended his visit to Kyrgyzstan and flew to Kazakhstan, the third leg of his visit to the Central Asian Turkic republics.

Ozal was received at Alma-Ata Airport by President Nursultan Nazarbayev with an official ceremony. Here, Ozal met with a group of Akhaltsikhe Turks and told them that he is trying meet their desire to return to their homeland.

After a private meeting, Ozal and Nazarbayev chaired their respective delegations in the official talks.

At a joint news conference, Ozal said that so far 22 agreements have been signed between Turkey and Kazakhstan, and 67 joint enterprises have been launched. He pointed out that Turkey extends loans to Kazakhstan, which has made significant progress during the past 18 months.

Nazarbayev said his country uses the reforms carried out in Turkey in the 1980's as an example. He pointed out that the volume of trade between the two countries grew 13-fold and that Kazakhstan follows the same lines as Turkey in foreign policy.

After the news conference, Turkish and Kazakhstani businessmen met with their respective presidents and discussed investment problems.

Foreign Minister Cetin also attended the news conference and businessmen's meeting.

Economic Agreements Signed

LD0904155593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Dukesh Baimbetov in Kazakhstan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Turkey, which was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan, was also the first to appreciate its economic potential. By extending large loans to Kazakhstan and investing in its economy—joint ventures alone number about 70—Turkey is naturally hoping for a return on its investment. This hotel complex, whose foundation-stone was laid today by Turgut Ozal, is not a straightforward gift to Alma-Ata either. The 22 agreements signed by the leaders of the two states affect virtually all spheres of economic life.

Economic questions also dominated Turgut Ozal's meeting with Nursultan Nazarbayev. The two men discussed ways of encouraging private enterprise and speeding up Kazakhstan's integration with the worldwide system of trade and economic relations.

Referring to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict at a news conference later, the presidents reiterated that peace can only be achieved through talks, based on mediation by the United Nations, the CSCE, and the entire world community. The president of Turkey also supported Nazarbayev's call for a conference on confidence-building measures in Asia.

Ozal Addresses Parliament

TA0904191693 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Mehmet Alkas in Alma-Ata]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Turgut Ozal addressed the Kazakhstani parliament today. He said multilateral cooperation projects in Central Asia are very important for the development of the Turkic republics. He stressed that the development efforts of the Turkic republics will complement each other. One of the positive results of this, he said, is that the foundations of regional peace will have been built. He also stressed that domestic peace is essential for economic development. He added: It is very important for the Turkic republics to hold multilateral contacts with their neighbors, in good relations, in order to bring about their economic development.

President Ozal also said Turkey supports Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev's efforts to set up a joint security system in Asia and hopes these efforts will prove successful.

Ozal and Nazarbayev later laid the cornerstone of a five-star hotel to be built in Alma-Ata with loans from Turkey. The 400-bed hotel will be built by a Turkish firm and will cost $40 million. Twenty-five percent of the hotel will be owned by the Turkish firm and 75 percent by Kazakhstan. The hotel will be completed in 1996.

Ozal also received representatives of the Akhaltsikhe Turks at the Turkish Embassy in Alma-Ata. The president said the government is trying to relocate these Turks to Turkey within the framework of a program.

Ozal then visited a Turkish-Kazakhstani private high school and attended a concert given in his honor.

Later, Nazarbayev gave a dinner in Ozal's honor.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin participated in the president's contacts in Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev Details Joint Projects

OW0904193893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and President Turgut Ozal of Turkey gave a joint news conference in Alma-Ata Friday [9 April] where they expressed their satisfaction with the status of relations between their countries.

Nazarbayev cited design of a thermal power station in Aktyubinsk region whose construction is expected to cost $1500 Mn [million] as a case of a joint project between the two countries.

According to Syzdyk Abishev, Kazakhstan's Foreign Trade Minister, the two countries signed 22 important accords last year on cooperation in the economy, science, and culture. Today the trade turnover between the two countries is $20 Mn. Sixteen branches of Turkish firms have been opened in Kazakhstan and 67 joint ventures launched. A Kazakh-Turkish business council plans to open trading houses in Alma-Ata and Istanbul.

Turgut Ozal emphasized that Turkey views Kazakhstan as a reliable partner. He also supported President Nazarbayev's call to convene an international conference on confidence building measures in Asia.

The two presidents will fly to the town of Turkestan April 10 to visit Moslem holy cites.

The Turkish president will leave for Turkmenistan April 11.

Economic, Trade Talks Continue

LD0904205993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1814 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By KAZTAG for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata April 9 TASS—At today's talks between the official delegations of Kazakhstan and Turkey, Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev and Turgut Ozal noted with satisfaction that cooperation between the two countries has been steadily developing and widening. They also stressed the importance of the further development of trade and economic ties in the region within the framework of the organisation of economic cooperation.

In the course of the talks both sides decided to take all the necessary measures for the implementation of the earlier signed inter-government agreements, particularly in the sphere of trade and economic, scientific and technological, and cultural ties, as well as training cadres. They also discussed problems of the further extension of inter-parliamentary contacts.

Touching on major international and regional issues, the participants of the meeting confirmed that it is possible to bring about peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Middle East only by peace talks on the basis of peacekeeping efforts within the framework of the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the whole world community.

Turgut Ozal again supported the Kazakh president's initiative to call a meeting on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia. The two sides spoke for the necessity of close cooperation for advancing this initiative and creating the mechanism for maintaining stability and security on the Asian continent.

Tomorrow the Turkish delegation will visit the Yuzho-Kazakhstanskaya region.

Foreign Affairs Ministry Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1104050793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Kazakhstan Ministry for Foreign Affairs has issued a statement on the worsening of the Nagorno-Karabakh situation. In particular, the statement says that a further escalation of tension could have serious military and political consequences. In the opinion of the Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry, any such development of events could lead to the military conflict's spreading. The Foreign Ministry called for an end to hostilities and a settlement of the crisis by negotiations, says EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA.

Tajikistan

Protest to Afghanistan Over 'Incessant Provocations'

LD1004072693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0538 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 10 Apr—The Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs has protested to the Afghanistan authorities over incessant provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from official sources that the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday evening sent a note of protest to the Afghan consul in Dushanbe.

The reason for the protest was an intensive two-hour bombardment from Afghanistan of an outpost of the Moskovskiy border detachment and the subsequent attempt at a military incursion across the border in that sector. Two border guards were wounded. Unfortunately, the incident did not pass without casualties. A tank of the 201st Russian motor-rifle division, sent by order of divisional commander Mukhreddin Ashurov to assist the border guards, set off a land mine. A Russian crew member, Lieutenant Valeriy Olovarenko, 24, was killed. Two other officers were wounded.

This is the third official protest by the Tajikistan authorities to the leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan since the beginning of March. The protests characterize incidents of this type on the Tajik-Afghan border as interference by the neighboring country in sovereign Tajikistan's affairs. A responsible employee of the Foreign Ministry admits that so far official Kabul has not responded to the protest by the Tajik side.

Clarification of Afghan Policy Demanded

OW1104125693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1226 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's foreign ministry on Saturday [10 April] again demanded that the Afghan leadership clarify its stance over an armed raid into Tajikistan 1-3 April. It earlier warned Afghanistan that any future attempt to violate Tajikistan's territorial integrity would be crushed.

A reply from the Afghan consulate received on 8 April notes that "the military presence of another state on the border of friendship between Afghanistan and Tajikistan (Russian border troops are implied) threatens Afghanistan's security".

In response, the Tajik foreign ministry on Saturday drew Afghanistan's attention to the fact that in keeping with CIS accords, the national border of Tajikistan is a CIS frontier, too. "Tajikistan has the right to deploy CIS troops on the border to guarantee CIS collective security", a note by the Tajik foreign ministry underlines.

The CIS border guards deployed in Tajikistan and on its border with Afghanistan have never violated its national frontier, the ministry states. The note expresses hope that the Afghan leadership will act properly to prevent armed provocations on the border.

Former President Rakhmon Nabiyev Dies

LD1104115793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 11—Rakhmon Nabiyev, former chairman of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet, died.

A spokesman in the National Security Committee of this Central Asian republic said by telephone today that "he died a natural death." He refused to specify the place and time of the prominent politician's death referring to the lack of this information.

The former head of state was born on October 5, 1930. In the last 30 years he held senior posts in the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party and the Council of Ministers.

He resigned as president on September 7, 1992 after the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the republican government came up with a no-confidence motion against him.

Cardiac Failure Cited

LD1204085693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0731 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspodent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe April 12 TASS—Former Tajik President Rakhmon Nabiyev died of myocardial infarction on Saturday [10 April] in his own apartment at the age of 63, TASS learned from the parliamentary press centre today.

His bodyguard found him dead only on Sunday.

The Republican National Security Committee said Nabiyev had hypertension and often complained about heartache.

Nabiyev, the former Communist Party boss of Tajikistan and the first and the last president of the Central Asian Republic, was forced to resign by the opposition last September when the civil war was raging in the republic.

The Tajik Parliament then cancelled the post of the president.

Nabiyev will be buried in his home town of Khujand. A state and governmental delegation headed by Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmanov left to attend the funeral on Monday.

Medical Report Released; Funeral Scheduled

OW1204102993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The funeral ceremonies of the republic's former President Rakhman Nabiyev who died at Sunday [11 April] night will be held on Monday in Khudzhant (Tajikistan's north). Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov heads the funeral commission.

A medical conclusion on the cause of Nabiyev's death has been made public. The conclusion indicates that for a long time Nabiyev has suffered with a chronic ishemic illness of the heart, atherosclerosis of coronary arteries of the heart and aorta, cardiosclerosis in correlation with hypertension. A sharp coronary insufficiency which led to posterior myocardial infarction was the direct cause of his death. The conclusion was signed by Tajikistan's Public Health Ministry Alamkhon Akhmedov.

Nabiyev was born in 1940 [as received] in the village of Sheikhburkhon of the Khodzhent region in the Leninabad province in the family of a peasant. He has worked in a collective farm for 11 years. After graduation from the Leninabad Agriculture secondary school and the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation' and mechanization of agriculture' engineers Nabiyev was the chief engineer at a machine-tractor station, chief of the main department of mechanization and introduction of new equipment, deputy chairman of the republican association Tajikselkhoztekhnica, deputy manager and manager of the agricultural sector at the Central commission of Tajikistan's communist party, a minister of agriculture, chairman of the Council of Minister and the first secretary of the Central committee of Tajikistan's Communist party.

Nabiyev was elected to the presidency in autumn 1991, in September 1992 he resigned under the pressure of the Islamic-Democratic opposition, after that, in November, the Tajik parliament abolished the post of a president.

Prime Minister Pledges Equal Status for Russian Citizens

OW0904170493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The claim that the current leadership of Tajikistan is pro-communist is slander which benefits only the republic's enemies," said Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov in an interview with Interfax.

The prime minister pointed out the important role that Russia has played in the stabilization of the situation in Tajikistan. "We always consult with Russia and act in coordination with [Russia]," he said.

According to Abdullodzhanov, the Tajik Supreme Soviet's passing of laws recognizing Russia as the republic's second state language, the granting of granting dual citizenship to Russian speaking Tajik residents, and the protection of national minorities would further strengthen relations between Dushanbe and Moscow. "These laws must be passed. It's not worth it for us to isolate one another," he said.

Abdullodzhanov pointed out that the stabilization of the situation in Tajikistan was being hindered by attempts from armed groups to illegally cross the border from Afghanistan. "For us this is a big problem," said the minister. He added that to solve the problem, Tajikistan was counting on help, including military help, from other CIS republics and especially from Russia.

"The border with Afghanistan must be reinforced, as was stipulated by the Minsk agreements," said the prime minister.

IF Note: The mass exodus of the Russian speaking population from Tajikistan continues, despite the political and economic situation. Deputy Head of the republic's "Migration" society Yuriyi Ognev said that in 1989 a total of 388,000 Russians (or 7.6% of the total population) resided in Tajikistan. Around 200,000 of these were claimed by Ognev to have left the republic's territory.

Prime Minister Outlines Program for Economic Development

LD1004094093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe April 10 TASS—The Government of Tajikistan considers reliance on its own resources and political stability as an important factor in stabilising the economy of the republic, Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said at a briefing held for local and foreign journalists.

According to the Tajik premier, only the use of its internal reserves, natural resources and active work of all people can help Tajikistan take a worthy place among developed states.

Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said that Tajikistan possesses unique and hitherto undeveloped precious metal and stones, oil, gas and mineral deposits which have no analogues in the world. Having created a vast network of processing enterprises the republic can boldly enter the world market. According to him, the development of horticulture, viniculture and cotton cultivation open bright prospects.

All these directions are reflected in the complex programme of the economic development of Tajikistan for the next two-three years a draft of which has been prepared by prominent scientists—analysts, the premier emphasised. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said that his government advocates co-existence of different forms of property, moderate privatization and full state monopoly of certain branches of industry, first of all of electronic, chemical and machine-building industries.

The Tajik premier expressed the hope that the stabilization of the social and political situation and openness of the republic for a diversified economy will attract major foreign businessmen, investors and bankers for working out and implementing joint projects on the development of mineral wealth, construction of processing enterprises and hydrotechnical facilities.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Welcomes Yeltsin's Mediation

LD1104165893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 11 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan welcomed the initiative by President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation who had expressed readiness to act as a mediator in political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This is stated in a message sent by the Armenian leader to the Russian president on Sunday, the Armenian president's press service reports.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan expressed hope that Boris Yeltsin's move will contribute considerably to the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the disputed enclave and will push forward the process initiated by the Minsk international conference of CSCE on Nagorno- Karabakh.

President Boris Yeltsin is known to have addressed the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents on Friday with an appeal expressing grave concern over the escalating armed confrontation in the troubled region. In particular, he proposed immediately ceasing fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and getting down to serious negotiations aimed at peaceful settlement of the conflict. With the consent from the opposing sides, the Russian president is ready to perform mediation functions.

Foreign Ministry 'Disappointed' With 'Biased' UN Statement

NC0904181093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian GMT 93

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] The Government of the Armenian Republic expresses its misgiving at the statement issued by the President of the UN Security Council on the intensification of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Following the militarization of the conflict, the UN Security Council never held Azerbaijan accountable for invading and pillaging the Armenian villages and areas in Nagorno-Karabakh and in the adjacent regions, for using ever more lethal weapons in the conflict, for air raids on civilian residential areas, for the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, for the acts of state terrorism that led to the destruction of the bridges and the gas pipelines feeding Armenia, and for the massacre and deportation of the Armenians in these regions. In general, it has not condemned Azerbaijan for pursuing a policy of a military solution to the problem; a policy that is still continuing.

Armenia agrees with the statement of the president of the UN Security Council that the negotiating process at the CSCE's Minsk group must be revitalized and the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh must be convened immediately.

However, Armenia is disappointed that the statement has scorned the principle of national self-determination and the equally important security demands of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian Government (?wishes) to draw the attention of the UN Security Council to the statement issued by the chairman of the State Defense Committee of Nagorno-Karabakh, which categorically denies any claims on the Azerbaijani territory and (?clearly) enumerates the aims pursued by the operation.

The Azerbaijani forces' unceasing aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh coincides with the absence of statements on the part of Azerbaijan, which might have inspired respect for the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh and contain ideas on the fate of its population.

The operation undertaken in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon by the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces was the result of the imminent threat against Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakertskiy Rayon and Lachin humanitarian corridor created by the operations carried out by the Azerbaijani units deployed there.

The unbalanced and biased statement of the president of the UN Security Council is a distraction from those factors that might create a real chance for peace.

With this statement, a powerful blow is struck to all those efforts of Armenia that had aimed at assuring the authorities and people in Nagorno-Karabakh of the importance of the international institutions in guaranteeing their lives and security.

Armenia, has on many occasions, proven its readiness to negotiate for a truce immediately, without preconditions, and conscientiously.

The Armenian Republic's Government will continue to exert efforts, through negotiations for the establishment of a cease-fire, in order to make the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem possible at the CSCE's Minsk Conference.

Karabakh Official on UN Statement, 'Readiness' for Talks

NC0904200793 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the State Defense Committee of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], said in a statement: The NKR government understands the concern expressed by the United Nations on the intensification of military operations between Azerbaijan and the NKR, as well as the UN Security Council's call to refrain from any operation that might hamper the political solution of the problem.

The NKR Government reiterates its desire for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and assures that the military operations undertaken by NKR self-defense forces are only responses to guarantee the security of the peaceful population.

In response to the UN Security Council call, he expressed readiness to conduct immediate and direct negotiations on a cease-fire between the plenipotentiary representatives of NKR authorities and Azerbaijan on the basis of universally accepted international norms.

The statement notes that the NKR Government will help in transporting humanitarian assistance to the peaceful population, irrespective of their nationality, once the NKR authorities are ready to receive the UN Secretary-General's special representative, who will assess the situation on the spot.

Defense Minister Comments on Karabakh Fighting

MK0904100693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 1

[Armen Khanbabyan report under the general heading: "War in Azerbaijan Is Running Its Course. Armenia's Defense Minister Does Not Regard Former Union's Internal Borders as Sacred"]

[Text] The long-awaited press conference by Armenia's Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan has taken place. It focused mainly on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the defense minister, the latest success for the Karabakh self-defense forces can have an appreciable impact on a political solution to the problem and bring Azerbaijan to negotiations. As for Karabakh's status, Manukyan stated that he could not imagine a situation where the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic would remain part of Azerbaijan. Its own army is the only real guarantee of Karabakh's independence, he said; no one would succeed in disarming it by force, and it is practically impossible for Karabakh to be part of Azerbaijan while having its own Armed Forces. As for the principle of inviolability of borders, the minister believes that the former borders inside the Union did not arise from natural processes, as in Europe for example, but were drawn absolutely arbitrarily, hence they cannot be regarded as sacred.

Touching upon statements by Baku officialdom on Armenia's aggression, he stressed that the republic is not waging a war with that country, and he called the Azerbaijani side the aggressor because of the blockade and shelling of Armenian border areas. Regarding the decision by the inhabitants of Karabakh to make a military strike in Kelbadzhar, the minister called this correct because it was of a preemptive nature.

Captured maps from the Azerbaijani headquarters indicated that a major offensive had been planned in Baku in the direction of Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakertskiy Rayon. The minister expressed bewilderment at the opposition press' inclination to see in what is happening either the "hand of Moscow" or some political deal aimed, in the long term, at carrying out territorial repartitioning unacceptable to Armenia. "All that is absolutely out of keeping with reality," Vazgen Manukyan said. "All that we and the inhabitants of Karabakh have achieved in the military sphere has been accomplished thanks to our own discipline, and, besides, the adage about the invincibility of people fighting for freedom has been confirmed."

The minister spoke well of Armenia-Russia military cooperation stressing, however, that it is still embryonic, and undertakings like joint exercises are a matter of the more remote future.

Spokesman Says Peace Depends on Karabakh Participation

OW0904161093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Without the participation of the powers of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, any negotiations will be insufficient, said presidential spokesman Aram Abramyan at a briefing in Yerevan. He said the head of state welcomed the UN Security Council's call for an immediate cease fire in the conflict zone and the beginning of peace negotiations. Abramyan pointed out that on April 1 President Levon Ter-Petrosyan made a similar appeal to the Nagorno-Karabakh State Defense Council, which met with a positive response (soon afterwards, as has been reported, Armenian armed formations of Karabakh launched an attack on the Kelbadzhar Region - IF [INTERFAX]).

The spokesman once again rejected accusations that regular Armenian forces are participating in the fighting. He approved of the UN's plans to send a representative to the region who, Abramyan hopes, will become convinced that Armenia "is not conducting provocations toward Azerbaijani territory."

Azerbaijan, the press secretary believes, is obstructing the Karabakh settlement process with the framework of the CSCE. Abramyan claims that Baku first refused to clarify the schedule drawn up at the Rome meeting in February, 1993, for the arrival of international observers, and then in general deemed participation in the CSCE peace process inexpedient.

Abramyan said that Azerbaijan "is blockading Armenia not just from its own territory, [but is] carrying out terrorist acts on Georgian territory, periodically blowing up gas pipelines and railway bridges." "The blockade is one of the manifestations of the war and this should

remain at the center of attention of the international community," said the press secretary.

Regardless of the difficult situation, Armenia is not going to change its stance on the Karabakh issue, said Abramyan. "The government, the people, and the opposition realize the purpose for this difficult struggle," he stressed. Concerning the possibility of recognizing the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Armenia, according the president's spokesman, still maintains that an armistice must be reached before conducting negotiations on the status and state- territorial arrangement of Nagorno Karabakh. "If we recognize the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh now, to a certain extent we will predetermine the situation, which would hinder the productive course of further negotiations," said Abramyan.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan on Friday [9 April] denied, in an exclusive Interfax interview, the announcement that Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations had reached agreement on a cease fire in the conflict zone from noon Moscow time of April 9th. In the minister's words, during yesterday's consultations between Security and Defence Minister of Armenia Vazgen Sarkisyan and State Secretary of Azerbaijan Panakh Guseynov under the mediation of RF [Russian Federation] Defence Minister Pavel Grachev they only discussed the possibility of holding a meeting between the premiers of the two states. The place and date of the meeting has yet to be determined.

Parliament Postpones Decision on Martial Law

NC0904191693 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In the opening address at today's extraordinary session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, Babken Araraktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, said that the session has been convened at the request of 91 people's deputies to examine a bill on martial law.

The parliament then decided to hold a closed session. [passage omitted] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan took part in the session and replied to deputies' questions. With a majority vote, the closed session placed the bill on martial law on the agenda and started debating it at an open session. [passage omitted] More than 10 deputies spoke in favor of adopting the bill. However, certain deputies put forward criticisms and additions to the bill, proposing that the bill be returned to the relevant parliamentary commission for further elaboration. [passage omitted] The representatives of the Armenian Communist Party, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and National Democrats Union proposed sending the bill back to the committee. Ter Husik Lazaryan, speaking for the Armenian Pannational Movement, called on the deputies to endorse the bill as the basis for a decision. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Soviet voted and decided to return the bill to the committee for further elaboration. With that the Supreme Soviet ended its deliberations.

Azerbaijan

Baku Denies Reported Cease-Fire Agreement With Armenia

LD0904133993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 9 Apr 93

[AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 9 April—The Office of the President of Azerbaijan disclaimed today the agreement allegedly reached yesterday in Sochi on a cease-fire in the area of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan from 12 noon on April 9. Commenting on the results of the meeting in an interview to the AZERTAC correspondent, chief analyst of the president's office Gasan Kuliyev, who was involved in Sochi talks, stated that "the issue of a cease-fire had indeed been discussed by the sides." However, the Azerbaijani representatives repeatedly stressed that unless Armenia pulled its troops out of the seized areas of Azerbaijan, any kind of agreement would be infeasible. Besides, said Mr. Kuliyev, not a single document was signed following this meeting. Draft documents on the cease-fire were not even considered. The only thing decided was a verbal agreement to hold a meeting between representatives of the conflicting parties in Moscow on April 13. Gasan Kuliyev stressed that correspondents had not been allowed to attend this meeting and also that the sides had agreed not to reveal its details. Therefore, he said, such "knowledgeability" on behalf of journalists was rather surprising.

Armenians Repel Attempt To Seize Village

OW1204133293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1307 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports that on the night of April 12 the Armenian formations were continuing active hostilities in Azerbaijan's Kubatlin and Zangelan regions. The regional center of Fizuli, situated near the border with Karabakh, was subjected to repeated rocket-artillery shelling. Damages are reported to be inflicted to the city. Baku also reports that guerrilla detachments acting in the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan have hit an Armenian tank.

Meanwhile, the KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that on the night of April 12 Azerbaijani formations made an attempt to seize the Armenian village of Taglar in the Gadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh. But by the morning, experiencing great losses, the Azerbaijanis were forced to retreat. The agency reports that the self-defense forces had one fighter killed.

According to Yerevan, on Sunday [11 April] the Armenian formations completely repelled the offensive waged by Azerbaijanis against the villages of Prashen and Lerkinand in Armenia's Kapan region. During the offence the Azerbaijani forces subjected to artillery fire

other villages of the Kapan region as well, and, as a result, 4 local residents have been wounded.

Baku Denies Asking Iran, Turkey for Military Aid

OW1204132993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1307 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing on Monday in Baku, the Azerbaijani President's press secretary A. Aliyev denied messages stating that Azerbaijan has addressed Turkey and Iran for military aid.

Aliyev reported that the Azerbaijani state secretary P. Guseynov, who visited Turkey and is on a visit in Iran now, addressed leadership of these countries asking for a humanitarian aid only and asked to help in evacuation of refugees.

State Secretary Visits Iran, Seeks 'Stance' on Armenia

LD1204084093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0824 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Teheran April 12 TASS—Azerbaijan's State Secretary Panakh Guseynov who arrived in Iran on a two-day visit at the head of a high-ranking delegation, said in Teheran on Sunday evening that "negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia are expected to begin".

Guseynov added he intends to receive a clear notion of Teheran's stance before the opening of negotiations with Armenia. He brought with him a message of Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During a meeting with First Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi, the Azeri representative described Iran as Azerbaijan's closest friend. He urged Muslem countries to help Azerbaijan end the war against Armenia.

Habibi expressed Tehran's deep anxiety over the escalation of the armed conflict in the Transcaucasia and condemned offensive operations of Armenian forces. He said Iran hopes that the conflict will be settled through negotiations.

Press Service Claims Armenia Favored by International Media

OW0904155893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Despite Azerbaijan's propaganda efforts, international political circles and mass media tend to highlight and analyze the Armenian regular forces' invasion of Azerbaijan in a compromising way and with a pro-Armenian bias," read a report by the Azerbaijani president's press service. The report also stated that Armenia's open aggression against Azerbaijan had not been sufficiently well interpreted by the world public.

International organizations and leading countries tend to assess the causes and content of the current aggravation of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations in a reserved and cautious way. The position of the UN Security Council, which issued a statement on April 6, "veiling the real nature of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and representing the Armenian army's aggression as the the invasion of local Armenian forces, is particularly typical in this respect."

A similar position was set forth in the statement by a representative of the US State Department on April 5, 1993.

The position of Italy and France seems even more cautious and reminiscent of the Armenian point of view, says the report.

Iran and Turkey displayed a more logical and principled approach to the problem, the reports go on to say. Their official statements emphasize Armenia's plans to annex a territory of sovereign Azerbaijan, says the document.

Military Commandants To Enforce Curfew

NC0904190893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Order issued by Baku City commandant to Baku district military commandants on 9 April]

[Text] The Baku district commandants will see to it that the [word indistinct] commandant's posts, which have been referred to in the first supplement to the Baku City commandant's Order No. 4, dated 5 April 1993, function only when the curfew comes into effect—from 0000 to 0500. The personnel assigned to these posts be used as patrol units, as in the case of field units, when the curfew is in effect.

Instructed To Supervise Military Call-Ups

NC0904192193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] President Elchibey today instructed that the city and rayon military commandants be assigned the task of supervising call-ups for active military service.

Commandant Views 'Emergency Situation'

OW1204125893 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Interview with Major General Abdulla Allakhverdiyev by Nattela Akhundova in Baku; date not given; from the "Telefaks" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Akhundova] As you know, an emergency situation has been introduced by presidential decree. We have asked General Abdulla Allakhverdiyev, the Baku military commandant, to comment on this event.

[Allakhverdiyev] Yes indeed, on 3 April, beginning at 0600, an emergency situation was declared in Baku. A military commandant's headquarters [komendatura] has been set up. Personnel of the Baku Garrison, Internal Troops, the academy, the training center, and the Main Police Directorate are operating under emergency conditions.

[Akhundova] What does this mean?

[Allakhverdiyev] As you know, the Republic has a law on emergency situations. Under emergency conditions, the personnel of the Baku Garrison—in other words, the Main Police Directorate and Internal Troops brought in to implement the emergency situation—will operate under the provisions of this law. Apparently a curfew will be introduced by presidential decree and all this will be entrusted to the municipal military commandant's headquarters. In connection with this, I have created military commandant's headquarters in all the rayons of our city and operating there are.... [pauses] Additional manpower and funds have been allocated to ensure the complete security of citizens, the defense of law and order, traffic safety, and, the most important thing, the struggle against crime under emergency conditions.

[Akhundova] We know that many municipal problems are being addressed at your level. In particular, you held a conference with the directors of bakeries today. How did it end? What were the results?

[Allakhverdiyev] Yes, there was a lot of discontent in the city yesterday related to the erratic supply of products to the city's residents, particularly bakery products. Because of this we established a group which last night visited virtually all bakeries and combines where bread is produced. At my initiative the director of the bakery in (Pochekhanovo) settlement was arrested and detained. The question of relieving the director of Bakery No. 4, Bagirova, of her duties is being raised, and the director of the motor enterprise that carries out bread deliveries has also been temporarily detained.

We will be taking the most decisive measures during the emergency situation to ensure the uninterrupted supply of bakery products to the citizens and residents of the city, to prevent crimes, and to prevent any deviations by heads—particularly by the heads—of enterprises and institutions responsible for supplies to the city.

Turkey To Send Human Rights Observers

LD1204115593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0631 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 12 Apr—The Turkish parliament's Human Rights Committee has decided to send a group of observers to Azerbaijan. Committee Chairman Sabri Yavuz said on 11 April that the group will include not just committee members but also representatives of other organizations working on humanitarian issues.

Two anti-Armenian demonstrations were held in Istanbul and Ankara at the end of last week. There were clashes between demonstrators and police.

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Russia Not Ready To Discuss 'All Issues'

OW1004132093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presenting his analysis on the results of the Russian-Georgian negotiations concluded in Sochi in a TV interview, Eduard Shevardnadze declared that the Russian delegation was not ready to discuss all issues at this meeting.

The head of the Georgian state asserts that "too many issues have been left without any answer." For example, he believes that the parties have failed to solve the issue concerning withdrawal of the Russian forces guarding a seismic laboratory in the village of Esheri and staying of a Russian unit in Gudauta. The issue on guarding of borders between Georgia and Russian Federation has not been solved either.

Shevardnadze said that he sees the reason in the fact that "very complex and contradicting processes are underway in Russia on the eve of the referendum." He does not rule out a possibility that the delegation "had the aim to gain the time until the referendum." Due to this, Shevardnadze said, "one cannot positively assess" even those results which have been achieved at the negotiations, namely in the field of trade-economic relations with the Russian Federation.

Shevardnadze believes that mutually acceptable agreements on major issues can be reached only at the upcoming summit between heads of two states. In Shevardnadze's opinion, the summit will take place after the referendum "if, of course, it is not postponed."

'Dissatisfied' With Sochi Talks

AU1104145793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by unidentified SAKINFORM reporter; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Reporter] What did you expect from the Sochi talks and what results were achieved there?

[Shevardnadze] I believe this meeting was useful, although I am of course dissatisfied with the results

achieved. I didn't think beforehand that any radical (?changes) in relations between Russia and Georgia would occur. Relations between Russia and Georgia are so complex at the present stage, particularly regarding the conflict in Abkhazia, that it is difficult to make meaningful decisions after one or two meetings. I believe this meeting has prepared the ground for the work of military experts and economists and for the settlement of various political issues, including problems connected with the Russian-Georgian border, and the withdrawal and status of the Russian Army. Possible variants of the final decisions and the most fundamental and necessary questions have to be prepared by the working groups. We will probably reach an agreement at the summit.

[Reporter] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard, has agreement been reached on a meeting between you and Batoni Yeltsin?

[Shevardnadze] Such agreement has not been reached, although both sides made it clear in Sochi that a summit was not only desirable but essential and inevitable. Due to the expected referendum in Russia, I cannot tell you if a meeting with Yeltsin will take place in the near future or not. My timetable is (?full) [words indistinct] Ukraine that it will probably not be possible to hold such a meeting for a while.

[Reporter] Did you speak on the phone with the Russian president before, during, or after the talks?

[Shevardnadze] There was no telephone conversation and no other contact.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1228 GMT on 11 April adds: "'A meeting between the defence ministers of Russia and Georgia has paved the way for a solution to various problems, including those on the border between the two countries, the withdrawal of Russian troops and the definition of their status', Eduard Shevardnadze has said in an interview with the Georgian news agency.

["In his opinion, 'one meeting is not enough for a drastic improvement in bilateral ties, considering complex relationships and in particular the conflict in Abkhazia'. At the same time, he urged working groups to draft possible final decisions.

["Mr. Shevardnadze voiced hope that agreements on the fundamental questions of bilateral relations would be reached at a summit. 'Although no decision to hold a summit has been taken in Sochi, both sides have unequivocally declared that a summit is not only desirable but inevitable' - the Georgian leader stressed."]

Sigua: Yeltsin, Shevardnadze To Meet in 'Near Future'

OW1004121793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1208 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Abkhazian Defense Ministry said that, on Friday [9 April], Abkhazian and Georgian forces were machinegunning each other in the vicinity of Sukhumi, following which, at 8:00 P.M. [1600 GMT], the Georgians began an artillery attack on Abkhazian positions. The ministry described as a lie the Georgians' statement, made shortly after they began talks with a Russian delegation in Sukhumi, that they had stopped fire.

According to the ministry, near Tkvarcheli, in Abkhazia's Ochamchira District, the Georgians, having rearranged their forces, attempted to launch an offensive towards the villages of Labra and Atara, firing on villages and towns from Grad multiple rocket launchers. Abkhazian forces rebuffed the offensive, after which a relative lull set in the district on Saturday morning, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry told Interfax the situation had, on the whole, been quiet both along the Gumista River and in Ochamchira District. Apart from a few sporadic outbursts of machinegun fire on some sections of the front, neither side had committed any violations of the temporary ceasefire, the press center said.

Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua told reporters on his return from Sochi that he was in general satisfied with the talks. "The Russian delegation took a reasonable stance and agreed to make some compromises, something it was unwilling to do at the beginning of the negotiations," he said. Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze were definitely going to meet in the near future, but before this Russian and Georgian military experts had to meet once again to state their countries' positions on the withdrawal of Russian forces from Abkhazia, the premier said.

Says Russia 'Torpedoed' Demands for Russian Withdrawal

OW1004160593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Russian-Georgian negotiations concluded in Sochi at the session of the Cabinet on Saturday [10 April], the Georgian Primer Minister Tengiz Sigua declared that the Russian delegation "has actually torpedoed the demands on immediate withdrawal of the Russian forces from Abkhazia put forward by the Georgian party." The question primarily concerns a battalion guarding a laboratory in the village of Esheri and detachments stationed in Gudauta (they have been re-deployed from the Azerbaijani city of Gyandzhi without any coordination with Georgia's government).

Due to this, Sigua declared, the negotiations have practically reached a deadlock. However, apparently the Russian delegation did not want to return to Moscow with empty hands and was forced to make several concessions at the very last moment, Sigua said.

An agreement on these and other military-political issues should obligatory be reached before the upcoming summit of heads of two states. In Sigua's opinion, the Russian party has not made concessions at this stage of negotiations as it feared that it will arouse a negative reaction in the Northern Caucasian republics on the eve of the April 25 referendum as in such a case they could refuse to participate in the voting.

Shevardnadze Receives Letter of Support From Germany's Kohl

AU1204101093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze received a letter from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in which it is stated that it is the goal of the German Federal Government to strengthen the position of the head of the Georgian state as the guarantee of stability, freedom, and democracy in Georgia. Batoni Helmut Kohl writes that he is very concerned by the conflict in the Caucasus and Russia's role in it. I broached this subject in my conversation with President Yeltsin, he wrote. Federal Minister Kinkel has asked his Russian colleague Kozyrev to do everything to prevent an exacerbation of the crisis. I hope that sensible forces will finally be victorious, writes Germany's chancellor.

Abkhaz Official Discusses Situation in Region

OW1104160293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1526 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As Interfax learned on Sunday [11 April] from Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia (government body loyal to the Georgian leadership: IF [INTERFAX]), the situation on the line of confrontation, both on the River Gumista and in Ochamchira District, has been relatively calm for three days now, with neither side conducting military actions.

In the meantime the territory controlled by the Georgian troops in Abkhazia has been virtually cut from the rest of Georgia for several days now, Nadareishvili said. According to him, this was caused by the followers of the former Georgian President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who blocked all the roads in Zugdidi District on April 7.

As a result the residents of Sukhumi and Ochamchira are suffering from acute food and fuel shortages; bakeries have sharply cut their output. During Saturday's negotiations between the government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the ex-president's supporters they refused to unblock the roads. They demand, as a preliminary condition, that the ex-president's aides arrested by the authorities be freed.

Nadareishvili believes that the actions of those who support the ex-president are detrimental to the combat capacity of Georgia's troops in Abkhazia. On Sunday Abkhazia's Cabinet of Ministers demanded that the population of Mengreli District unblock the roads without delay, the prime minister said.

In comments on the talks held between Georgia and Russia in Sochi, Nadareishvili said that "they actually yielded no concrete results". According to him, Russia "continues to control the territory of its military laboratory in Esheri". Nevertheless he described as "reassuring" the circumstance that the two sides officially fixed the time limit for the presence of Russian troops in Abkhazia - the end of 1995.

Shevardnadze Heads Delegation to Ukraine

OW1204102393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Georgian delegation led by Eduard Shevardnadze left Tbilisi for Kiev on April 12. During its official visit to Ukraine, the Georgian leadership is to sign about 20 bilateral accords, including a friendship and cooperation treaty and agreements on banking and custom relations and visa-free travel.

In an interview with Georgian television Monday [12 April] morning, Mr. Shevardnadze underscored Ukraine's major role in guaranteeing stability not only in Europe but across the world. He voiced the view that "in regard to Abkhazia, Ukraine's potential has not been tapped in full so far." The Georgian leader said that the restoration of peace to Transcaucasia was in Ukraine's interests not only for political but economic reasons. In his words, Kiev would benefit by getting oil products from the Middle East via Georgia.

He suggested that Ukraine could help to settle the conflict in Abkhazia by sending a peace-keeping force there.

In an interview with Georgian television Saturday night, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk declared that "Ukraine would like to act by using all its influence and strength to stop the hard conflict under way on Georgian soil." In his words, Ukraine is ready to apply every means for a political settlement in Abkhazia.

Sigua, Chikvaidze, Others Accompany

AU1204104493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Today a Georgian delegation led by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, will leave Tbilisi for Kiev. The delegation is composed of Georgian Prime Minister Batoni Tengiz Sigua, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze, Georgian Parliamentary Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze, members of the Georgian Council of Ministers, department heads, businessmen, and senior employees from the head of state's apparatus in the Georgian Foreign Ministry. The

vist is to last two days. A treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two states and up to 20 different agreements that will develop mutual ties in both the political and economic, cultural, scientific, and other spheres will be signed.

We expect Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze to give a news conference at the airport before his departure. We will broadcast the results of the news conference later.

About 10,000 Rally in Tblisi for Gamsakhurdia

OW0904171893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] About ten thousand supporters of the Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia are holding an anti-government rally in Tbilisi's Rustaveli Avenue. It is timed for National Accord Day commemorating those who died for the motherland. In the beginning of April 1989 troops in Tbilisi dispersed a peace demonstration. As a result twenty people were killed.

Speakers at the rally called for Gamsakhurdia's return to Georgia and for disobedience to the current Georgian authorities.

The police is said to have refrained from intervention.